

Scottish
League fixtures
for 1981-82

JOHN ROBERTSON

~his battle to reach the top with Forest

SHOOT!

25p

22nd AUGUST, 1981

The JOE JORDAN Story in pictures

Meet
PHIL PARKES
+goalkeeper's
gloves
to be won!

**WHAT VILLA'S
SUCCESS HAS DONE
FOR BIRMINGHAM**
— JIM SMITH

Arsenal winger Brian
McDermott is
shadowed by Aston
Villa's full-back Colin
Gibson.

SHOOT'S Nationwide

The second part of our review of the new season, in which we assess the chances of clubs in the South, West, East and Wales.

It is now ten years since the Football League Championship rested in the South of England.

With the exception of Arsenal's solitary success in 1971, the title has gone to the North or the Midlands on every occasion since Ipswich's surprise triumph back in 1962.

So what are the prospects of that amazing stranglehold being broken in the new season?

The strongest challenge must surely come once again from Ipswich.

Manager Bobby Robson is sure



any serious Championship plans. Just down the Seven Sisters Road, things aren't looking too good for Arsenal.

With Willie Young on the list, Frank Stapleton almost certain to leave and David O'Leary still unsure of his future, it is anyone's guess as to how The Gunners will fare in the new campaign.



Mike Channon of Southampton.

his team would already have gained the ultimate accolade were it not for a spate of injuries and an overcrowded fixture list last season.

The return of key players such as Beattie and Burley, combined with Frans Thijssen's decision to stay in East Anglia, are certainly cause for optimism at Portman Road.

But the Ipswich fixture list won't be any less congested this time round, and with a strangely injury-prone squad, it could be a case of bridesmaid once again for the Suffolk club.

In the capital, don't expect too much from Arsenal or West Ham but look to Spurs to make a big improvement on last season's tenth place.

Glenn Hoddle's decision to stay and help the F.A. Cup holders in Europe has come as a welcome boost to manager Keith Burkinshaw, but it could just be new arrival Paul Price who could have the biggest impact at White Hart Lane in the coming months.

If he can shore up Tottenham's traditionally suspect back-four, his fee from Luton will be more than justified. But even then it is hard to picture a Spurs team anywhere near consistent enough to harbour

IPSWICH BOOST BUT FEW CAPITAL GAINS

But it is pretty clear that the club who have always been careful with the pennies will have to spend heavily if they are to enjoy much more than a mediocre time.

And West Ham, who proved themselves too good for the Second Division, won't find life so easy in the top flight.

Manager John Lyall has brought through fine young players like Ray Stewart, Alan Devonshire and Alvin Martin, and they should be good enough to secure a comfortable position for The Hammers — but no more.

Accompanying them to promotion last May were Swansea City, now set to make their First Division debuts.

Manager John Toshack has performed miracles in guiding the once ailing club from the Fourth to the First Division, but the addition of Dai Davies and Bob Latchford has done nothing to lower the average age of a squad already



Ipswich's chances will be enhanced by the return of George Burley (left) and Frans Thijssen's decision to sign on.



Tottenham (light strip) and Arsenal are the two big hopes from North London.

expect miracles from Saints.

And after two seasons struggling against relegation, Brighton might just have learned enough about survival to look forward to a slightly less troubled nine months.

Of the Second Division clubs, expect the strongest challenge of the capital's clubs to be headed by Queens Park Rangers.

Terry Venables blotted his copy book at Crystal Palace last season, but now he appears to have gathered sufficient quality at Loftus Road for Rangers to 'do a West Ham' — with no little help from the synthetic pitch.

Of the other London clubs, Chelsea and Crystal Palace could once again be the soccer equivalents to Jekyll and Hyde.

Improvement

Only a team which did as terribly as Palace last season can hope for the kind of improvement which gained them the Team of the 80's albatross which has been hanging round their necks ever since.

And only a team which finished the season as pathetically as Chelsea managed last term can present the kind of challenge upon which new boss John Neal is sure to thrive.

Alan Mullery has certainly lost no time in ringing in the changes at Charlton, but it will take more than a handful of free transfer men to take them near to promotion.

And Orient, the poor relations of London soccer, could be in all sorts of trouble if they can't shake off the form which brought them tumbling from a promising mid-term position last time.

Outside of London, Watford are now looking ready to mount their

final promotion challenge after two years consolidation, while Luton might feel the loss of Paul Price and Paddy Grealish more heavily than they have bargained for.

Cambridge can realistically hope for little more than a repeat performance of last season's freedom from relegation worries considering their limited resources, but nearby Norwich should give East Anglia cause for celebration with an immediate return to the First Division.

But across the other side of Britain, there seems little prospect of Welsh joy at Cardiff and Wrexham.

The North Wales club should be

good enough to survive the drop, but Cardiff have flirted with relegation once too often, and this time they could just fail to produce what is now becoming a habitual miracle escape.

Of the Third Division teams who could possibly replace Cardiff, Gillingham could be good enough to go up.

Oxford, should they sustain the form they have shown under Ian Greaves, can expect a much brighter time, while Portsmouth, Exeter, Plymouth, Reading and even Fulham all seem capable of mounting promotion bids.

Brentford, Millwall, Newport and Southend are all good enough to pass the season without too many worries, but John Trollope must unravel the mystery of Swindon's transformation from promotion to relegation candidates within the space of a year.

Newly promoted Wimbledon might also have to fight a prolonged battle.

Which leaves us with the two Bristol teams, both relegated last season and both knowing that they must go straight back up again if they don't want to remain in the soccer wilderness for quite some time.

The Mabbott boys — Kevin at City and Gary at Rovers — could both be on their way soon, and that won't make matters any easier.

But City, under the shrewd



Chelsea and Cardiff (above) will be hoping for better luck this season.

Bobby Houghton (right) could lead Bristol City out of the Third Division at the first attempt.

Alvin Martin (below, right) should help West Ham consolidate themselves in the First.



leadership of Bobby Houghton, should still prove good enough to succeed in their aim. Rovers, however, might not find it so easy.

In the Fourth Division, Bournemouth boss David Webb is confident that not only will his team gain promotion — but they'll end the season as Champions, too.

We won't go as far as to say that, but certainly Bournemouth should put in a strong bid for a place in the top four.

Up there with them, Peterborough and Aldershot will no doubt be looking to make headway, but it is Colchester who must represent the best bet for Fourth Division promotion.

Torquay and Northampton will probably have the kind of season which will leave them in their customary mid-table position, but Hereford won't be quite so patient with manager Frank Lord if his side finish in the re-election zone again this season.

longer in the tooth than most. Down on the South Coast, Southampton will be eager to capitalise on their best ever League position of sixth place last season.

How much the added demands of Europe will make on the more 'experienced' members of Lawrie McMenemy's team, such as Ball, Watson, Channon and Nicholl, should be interesting, but don't

Tony Grealish's departure from Luton to Brighton could weaken their chances.



Greed is killing soccer

MANY managers will feel sympathy for Keith Burkinshaw's argument that greedy superstars are largely to blame for putting 19 per cent of professional footballers on the dole before a ball is kicked in the new season.

The Tottenham manager, who has some of soccer's highest paid players on his books at White Hart Lane, attacks the English system of wages and transfers.

And he echoed the thoughts of the majority of managers when he complains: "Generally speaking, players now couldn't care less about anyone but themselves."

He went on: "There is no doubt that what is threatening the career of footballers lower down the scale is greed and self-interest."

He says he knows of a Fourth Division manager who pays two of his players £400 a week each.

Burkinshaw admits that he and many of his managerial contemporaries have helped create a system that is squeezing life out of the game.

"We sowed the seeds when we demanded a removal of the maximum wage. It was the right thing at the time, but now we are reap-

SHOOT! view!

ing the harvest. The pendulum has swung the other way."

The problem now is that many of our top stars are being lured away from their British fans, yet the British clubs cannot import world class foreign stars because they cannot afford the transfer fees and inflated wages they demand for their services.

At the moment it is one-way traffic ... to the Continent. Keegan, Woodcock, Cunningham, Jordan and many more are sure to follow as foreign clubs wave fat cheques in the direction of our star players.

Glenn Hoddle, to his great credit, resisted the temptation to leave Spurs. Burkinshaw has persuaded him to stay for another two years, but his England star has made it perfectly plain that he will be away once that contract expires.

The average fan finds it hard to understand how some footballers can command huge salaries, while others are lining-up alongside unemployed builders, plumbers, salesmen and shop assistants in the dole queues of our towns and cities.

The League clubs have been stupidly lax in agreeing to excessive wage demands. If football is to survive for all, and not for just a few elite clubs and players, a ceiling will have to be imposed on salaries and some way will have to be found to bring down transfer fees to more realistic levels.

SPURS star Graham Roberts has tuned up for the new season by — pounding country roads acting as a pacemaker for his bicycling brother-in-law who was in training for a charity race from Cornwall to Glasgow. Says Graham: "I've clocked up plenty of mileage running against his bike and I hope it helps me when the new term begins."

City to sell Whitehead



CLIVE WHITEHEAD, once considered vital to Bristol City's future, could well join a new club by the start of the season.

He was left at home when City toured Sweden this summer and does not feature in manager Bobby Houghton's plans to win promotion from the Third Division at the first attempt.

He says sadly: "It appears I am not wanted at Ashton Gate. Although I would like to get back into a higher grade of League football, I am in no rush to move."

He has not been training with the first team squad.

GIDMAN WANTS ENGLAND RECALL

MANCHESTER United's latest signing full-back John Gidman has set his sights on winning back his England place after four years in the international wilderness.

Gidman, who featured in a player-exchange deal which saw Welsh winger Mike Thomas join Everton, won his only cap against Luxembourg in 1976.

"I'm still only 27 and at the moment I'm just going to concentrate on playing well for United. But if you play well for your club then you get noticed. If I go out there, do well, I think other people will start saying 'Gidman's back to his best.'

"I'll be honest and say I'd love to be involved in the World Cup in Spain next year, and I'm really going to work hard at my game during the next few months.

"I'm going to start saying to

myself 'right change your attitude ... get the colour blue out of your mind ... you're playing in red for Manchester United now.'

"I think I'll fit in well here ... United play my sort of game. I wouldn't say they were two wasted years at Everton but I played too much of an easy game. I didn't run with the ball as much as I'd have liked to ... but now I've got a fresh start."

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



ABERDEEN should be well prepared for their forthcoming UEFA Cup clash with Ipswich after a rich diet of English opposition.

The Dons hosted a pre-season tournament that also involved Manchester United, Southampton and West Ham which they won and two weeks later Spurs were the visitors in a testimonial game for skipper Willie Miller.

RANGERS' pivot-cum-midfielder John McClelland is the first Scottish League player capped by Northern Ireland since the then Dundee outside-right Billy Campbell won the last of his six full caps, against Wales, at Swansea, in 1970.

FULHAM'S new-look coaching staff is now complete as the Londoners prepare to challenge for a Third Division promotion place.

Latest addition is Ray Harford who will be in charge of the youth side after eight years at Colchester United, the last six as first team coach.

The other new face at Craven Cottage belongs to former Arsenal winger George Armstrong who was on the coaching staff at Aston Villa and has also had a spell in Norway since hanging up his boots.

He teams up again, of course, with Fulham boss Malcolm Macdonald, a playing colleague at Highbury.

Murdoch

signs
Bolton



MIDDLESBROUGH are making a habit of buying top-class defenders from other North East clubs.

They bought John Craggs and Irving Nattrass from Newcastle; now, new manager Bobby Murdoch has picked up Joe Bolton (above) from Sunderland.

And Boro will be happy if Bolton does as well as the previous two.

Bolton spent 11 years at Roker Park.

SPURS' UNCUT DIAMOND

MORE than 40 top clubs made the trip to Stirling to visit 16-year-old Alastair Dick during the past year.

But, one by one they were turned away — all except Spurs. Now the London club have succeeded in signing the young Scottish schoolboy that almost everyone wanted.

Every club in the English First Division except two tried to get his signature.

The trek by the game's top clubs was sparked off when Alastair scored one of the Scotland Schoolboys' team's goals in that epic international against England at Wembley last summer.

The Scots won 5-4 and Dick, the slim outside-left was one of their stars.

He had offers from Liverpool, Manchester United, Manchester City, Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest yet he preferred the quiet approach of Keith Burkinshaw and the homely atmosphere at White Hart Lane.

He says: "The first time I went down I walked into the office and there was Ossie Ardiles making a telephone call. When he came off the 'phone he chatted away just as if I'd been a player there for seasons."

TREVOR BROOKING CUPWINNERS

COLWELL Kites, an Under-10 team from Hertfordshire, were the first winners of the Trevor Brooking Cups when they beat Nicholians of Ipswich in the Final held at the Eurosports Village, recently.

If any clubs are interested in competing for one of the Trevor Brooking trophies contact Kit Carson, Eurosports Village, Shotley, Ipswich, Suffolk.



FREE GIFTS... FREE G



HOW about this for a real shoot-out? Stranraer amateur sides Kirkcolm and Eynhallow finished 2-2 after 90 minutes and extra-time in their Docherty Summer Cup tie which kicked off at 7.30pm. So it went to penalties — and the players just could not miss. The spot-kick score reached 25-24 — and then Eynhallow slipped up and missed the fatal 50th effort. The game ended with Kirkcolm 27-26 winners . . . at 10.10 pm.

••••••••••

MIDFIELDER Martin Singleton, who has been a professional with Coventry for seven months, has been quietly building up a reputation for himself.

The boy from Banbury won county and South of England honours and was an English trialist at schoolboy level and has also been in the England Youth trial squad.

Beattie's protector

IPSWICH star Kevin Beattie will be wearing a special plastic guard — approved by the Football League — on his broken arm early in the new season.

The arm bone has mended but doctors have told Kevin that it will take slightly longer than expected to heal. But unlucky Kevin regards the arm injury as something of a blessing in disguise . . . it has given extra time for his troublesome right knee to mend.

He says: "The knee feels superb and I'm sure the rest I've had because of the arm has done me the world of good."



Belgium beckons

FORMER Sunderland striker Jimmy Grattan is in demand in Belgium.

Grattan, given a free transfer by the Roker Park club two years ago, has been with Belgian Second Division side Racing Jet.

Now, he's wanted by three First Division sides over there, but Racing Jet have slapped a £50,000 fee on him.

Grattan is enjoying life in Belgium and is keen to stay . . . but only with a First Division side.

In the meantime, he is spending the summer in America to discuss the chance of a move to one of the NASL clubs.

Liverpool's Irish date

MONDAY, August 24, promises to be a "Red" Letter day for Crusaders, in every sense of the word.

The ambitious Ulster outfit will play host to European Cup kings and League Cup holders Liverpool in an attractive friendly fixture, before which the Anfield club's chairman, John Smith, will officially open Seaview's new, £200,000 grandstand.

Incidentally, Pool last played at the North Belfast venue in a 1976-77 Champions' Cup-tie, en route to the first of their three triumphs in the premier Continental competition.

Briefly...

23-year-old forward. Says the St Andrews new boy with a smile: "Just call me Tony!"

• Former Plymouth Argyle striker Mark Graves is training at Ipswich in a bid to break into the big time.

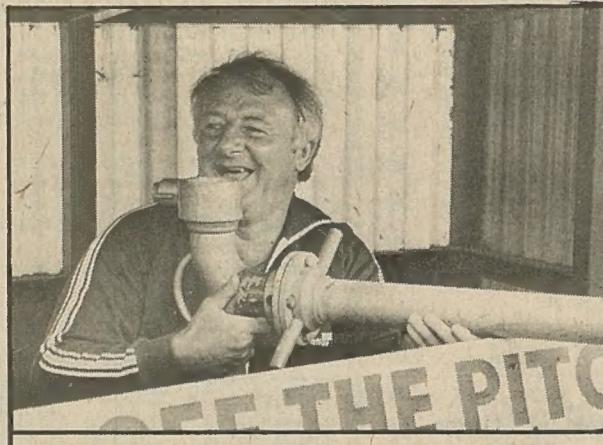
• It was a sad day for Distillery when their perennial chairman, Harry Caldwell, finally called it

a day. Keen and energetic backroom boy Harry, Northern Ireland's longest-serving soccer legislator, has been associated with the "Whites" for the past 55 years.

• Carlisle United winger George McVitie (32) has moved 30 miles up the A 74 to join Queen of the South at Dumfries.

MAKE a note of Colin Ross's name. Middlesbrough boss Bobby Murdoch reckons the youngster from Ayrshire will hit the headlines in the new season with some dazzling midfield performances.

AMONG the latest arrivals at Coventry City is 16 year-old Keith Thompson, who has now joined his elder brother, Garry, at Highfield Road.



ROOTIN' TOOTIN' SHOOTIN' TOMMY DOCHERTY. The Doc has returned to Preston North End, the club he represented as a wing-half, in an effort to restore them to their former glories. Deepdale's new manager is hoping to shoot them out of the Third Division at the first attempt after their relegation at the end of last season.

DESPITE being relegated from the Scottish First Division last season, Berwick Rangers still managed to make a profit of over £40,000 thanks mainly to sound 'shoestring' budgeting and a hugely successful lottery which yielded £140,000.

DENNIS Fowler, Bristol City's long-serving medical officer, has resigned. Dr Fowler is going to work in Africa for a year.

Morris raids old club

PETERBOROUGH manager Peter Morris, the former Ipswich midfield player, has returned to his old club yet again for a new signing.

He has added 18-year-old Northern Ireland youth striker Colin Clarke to the squad that narrowly missed promotion from the Fourth Division last season.

Other players to take the route from Portman Road to London Road in recent seasons include full-back Ian Phillips, a regular last season, midfield man Pat Sharkey, winger Mick Lambert and goalkeeper Paul Overton.

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"And don't forget to change your nappy at half-time."



"This won't do, my boy. Everyone gets a booking now and again."



"It's when I throw something at him — he catches it."

"I don't mind insults, screaming abuse but when they laugh it hurts."



"They've been booked under the Trade Descriptions Act."

JOHN Robertson, arguably the most influential and certainly the most creative player in Nottingham Forest's rise to prominence, could look more like his former self this coming season.

For if the plans of Brian Clough are to work out, 28-year-old Robertson will be back where he is at his most effective — teasing and tormenting First Division full-backs.

Over the last couple of seasons the artful Scot has been withdrawn by Forest into a midfield role, where his experience and expertise have steadied the side during a transitional period.

But the arrival of Mark Proctor from Middlesbrough and the possibility of further signings around the corner will hopefully allow Clough the chance to let Robertson attack.

Said the Forest boss: "If we get the balance of the side right, I certainly want to see us pushing John forward more and operating where he is at his most effective.

'Ability'

"We've leaned on him in the last couple of years because experienced players have left and we've cried out for someone of his ability to put his foot on the ball.

"At times he was not getting a kick because we were not providing him with the service he needs. It was becoming easy for teams to crowd him out and he didn't get a chance to create havoc.

"If we've got people going down other avenues, then he'll get more space than he's been used to in recent times and if we can get John producing the form of which he is capable, he could make all the difference to us."

And Robertson, who signed a new contract with Forest at the beginning of last season after it looked as though he would follow the trend and move on, will welcome the opportunity to probe opposition defences.

He admits: "When you are surrounded by defenders it does cut down your chances of making

openings and I would love to be in a position where I had space and freedom.

"When you are playing in the First Division, you've got to expect a certain amount of close marking but having one player to contend with doesn't bother me so much.

"It's when you beat one man and then find another that makes it difficult to get into the danger areas, but it will suit me down to the ground to have a chance to get at people."

One problem Forest might have in that area is to find a left-back capable of fitting into the position alongside Robertson now that Frank Gray has made the return journey to Leeds.

Gray's attacking qualities complemented those of Robertson and they had the extra bonus of playing together for Scotland as well as Forest.

Much could also depend on the development of former Scottish youth international Colin Walsh, who made strides towards establishing himself on the left side of midfield last season.

If he can continue to make the progress expected of him, he possesses the natural talents to help Robertson re-emerge as the winger everybody feared.

John Robertson has been a crowd puller throughout Forest's

Forest's star winger John Robertson is freed for . . .

fabulous rise to prominence. He has played well over 300 League games for the club in 12 seasons at the City Ground.

Clough's decision to give free rein to "Robbo's" talents this coming season will bring light relief to Forest's supporters who believe that the Scottish winger is at his best around the edge of the opposing penalty area.

Born in Uddington, Scotland, he



Robertson in full flight, leaving Ipswich's George Burley for dead



Colin Walsh

joined Forest from his native Scotland where he played for Drumchapel Amateurs, a famous nursery side who also produced Asa Hartford and John Wark.

The best of Robertson has been seen since the arrival of Brian Clough and Peter Taylor at Forest. They marvelled at the wizardry of his twinkling feet down the left and have used him in devastating fashion since.

His skills were never more evident than on a sensational May night in Madrid when the flying Scot scored the only goal of the game against Kevin Keegan's Hamburger SV to clinch the European Cup in 1980 for the second successive year. He had made Trevor Francis' goal for Forest against Malmo in the European Cup Final the previous year.

If Robertson was less effective last season in a difficult transitional period for Forest after all the Cup-winning euphoria of previous seasons it was simply because of his withdrawal from the sharp end of Forest's attack.

Fortunately, the Forest fans will see Robertson back to his thrusting best in 1981-82 with the freedom for all out attack.

Forest now believe they have a definite advantage over many of the other Championship hopefuls

All-out attack

Elation for John Robertson (right) after scoring the only goal of the game in the 1980 European Cup Final for Forest against Hamburger SV in Madrid (below). Forest boss Brian Clough (inset).



in that they completed the rebuilding of their side some months ago.

Hopefully, the highly talented Proctor will fit in without any problems, and that can only help John Robertson.

After the disappointments of Argentina, he is also keen to make a big impression in next year's World Cup Finals and knows the importance of playing at peak form.

Right-backs, beware!

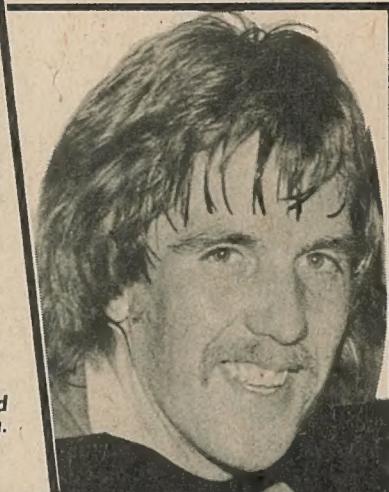
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My glove size —
(Youths, Small Men's, Men's, Large Men's)

WEST Ham's long-serving full-back, Frank Lampard, began the 1980-81 season out of the side, and wondering whether in fact his first team days at Upton Park were numbered.

He finished it a vital cog in what many observers believe to be one of the best sides the East London club have ever produced.

Frank's performances for The Hammers impressed manager John Lyall enough to offer him the new contract he wanted and a chance to taste life back in the First Division.

"Obviously, I'd very much like to play in the top bracket once again," said Frank. "I'll be 33 in September, and I know that's considered to be the veteran stage in some people's books. So they're bound to say I should make way for a younger player. But I believe I still have a great deal to offer this club."

"We've got some very promising youngsters already in the side, as well as coming up through the ranks. But they need to be brought along gradually. Not thrown in at the deep end, and left to their own devices."

"In my opinion, that's where Leicester City went wrong last season. Their youngsters had to sort things out for themselves. And by the time they'd adjusted to First Division football, it was too late."

"The way I see it, with experienced players like myself and Billy Bonds at the back, we can use our knowledge and know-how to nurse our own youngsters along; and it'll be reassuring for them to

know that we'll be there, if and when they should need us."

"Playing First Division football needs a completely different approach to anything else. And if you've got players in the side who have experienced it all before, as we have, then surely it's got to be to your advantage."

"I certainly feel as fit as ever," Frank went on. "The number of games I played for the club last season proves that."

"But being able to last a hectic season, like the one we had, isn't simply down to fitness. It comes back to experience again."

Achieved

Now The Lamp has that magic figure of 500 League games for the club in his sights, which he hopes to reach next season. That's something only three other players in the club's history have achieved. Bobby Moore, Jimmy Ruffell, and present skipper, Billy Bonds.

"If I hadn't missed all but one game in the 1968-69 season because of a broken leg, I'd probably have been much closer to that record by now," says Frank. "But at least it gives me something else to aim for."

"I believe West Ham will more than give a good account of themselves next season, and I hope to be around to do my bit towards that end."

THE LAMP'S STILL SHINING



Lampard comes off best against Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish in last season's League Cup Final.

I HAVE always been a football fan, either playing the game I love in the backgreens of the Dundee housing estate where I was brought up, supporting Dundee United from the terracing at Tannadice or watching my favourites such as Rangers and Spurs on the television.

I'm told I was brought up with a football in my pram, but I'm not certain of the accuracy of that particular story!

Yes, I truly love the game of football and the saddest day of my life will be the day when I know I have to quit the playing side of soccer. Hopefully, I have a few years to go before I make that decision! I'm only 27 at the moment, after all...

But there are things in the game that anger me... there are things



'Soccer's actors make me mad'

in the game that frustrate me.

For a start, I can't stand 'actors'. You know the sort I mean, the players who get their fellow professionals into trouble by taking a dive or, even worse, faking an injury.

Sadly, it goes on and it makes the poor referee's job even more difficult. Thankfully, we don't indulge in anything like that at Ibrox. The gaffer, John Greig, wouldn't stand for it.

Players making things look worse than they actually are can start trouble on the terracings. I wish they would think of things like that before indulging in their silly antics.

Another thing that annoys me are the time-wasters. If Rangers are 1-0 ahead with a couple of minutes to go obviously we won't throw caution to the wind by going for a second goal but, at the same time, we never set out deliberately just to close down the game.

At Ibrox we believe in entertaining the fans, for without them there is no lifeblood in the game. If you don't provide the goods you get what you deserve.

It can be so frustrating when

teams come to Ibrox with the obvious thought that the game starts at 0-0. That means they kick off with a point which they regard as a point gained rather than a point dropped and they play a defensive strategy right from the beginning.

I've talked to players of deliberately defensive sides and they tell me they are ordered to play that way by their managers. If they don't play to instructions they are simply left out of the team, and no one can afford that in this day and age.

Courage

It's a pity that the managers can't show enough courage to put out teams that want to go forward.

Celtic may be our great rivals but, like us, they are one of the few teams in Britain who attack, home and away. Aberdeen are another side who are geared to attack.

However, there are other sides who do little to paint a colourful picture of football. Oh, I must include Dundee United as an entertaining side, and I assure you it has

nothing to do with past loyalties!

They beat Rangers 4-1 at Ibrox in a League game last season and there aren't many sides who can boast of scoring four goals against us in Glasgow!

What I would like to see in future are teams with a bit of flair, teams who can provide entertainment and bring those fans flocking back to the game. I can always dream, can't I?

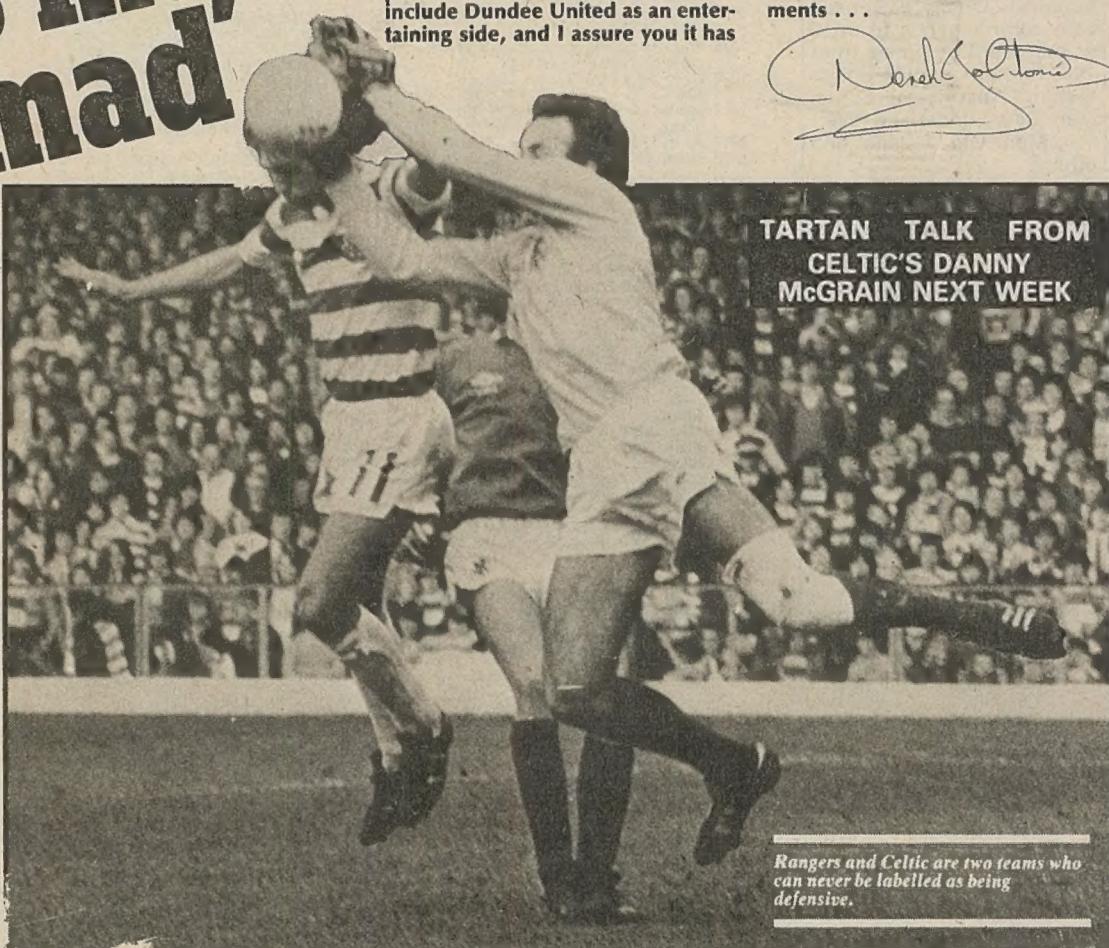
Alas, all good things must come to an end, and I have to tell you that this is my last column for Tartan Talk. I've had a great time writing the column and answering your letters, and thanks to all the readers who took the time to see what I was talking about.

I enjoyed it all immensely and I hope to be popping up a few times in the future to be giving SHOOT readers my views on some soccer topics. You can't escape me that easily!

Cheers for now and thanks again for all your letters and comments...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Johnstone'.

**TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK**



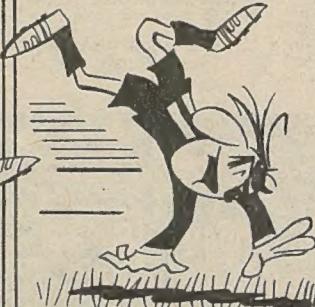
Rangers and Celtic are two teams who can never be labelled as being defensive.

NOBBY

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1978 F.A. CUP FINAL

Arsenal v. Arsenal

1977 EUROPEAN CUP FINAL

Liverpool v. Borussia MGB

1977 BATTLE OF THE GIANTS

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THE Blues of Birmingham are ready to challenge neighbours and Champions Aston Villa for the title of Second City Firsts.

St. Andrews boss Jim Smith doesn't want a repeat of last season's inter-city race when Villa roared like an express train to their first title success in 71 years while his own side ran out of steam.

Indeed, Blues went completely off the rails in the final lap, winning just one of their last eight games, or they would have finished higher than 13th, their eventual position.

Says Smith: "I've been aware of the intense rivalry in this city since the day I arrived and last season was very frustrating for our supporters. But I maintain that Villa's success could be good for us.

'Advantage'

"It has certainly been a boost for the area and I think we can use it to our advantage. Our players see a lot of the Villa lads and will realise just what winning a major honour like the title means.

"Villa naturally got most of the limelight and they deserved it for their achievement. But I'm hoping it increases the appetite of my own players and makes them determined to claim the lion's share of the attention."

of last season and a crowd of only 12,863 saw Blues draw 1-1 with Everton in the final match. But manager Smith says: "It was sheer frustration that kept a lot of people away and I can't really blame them.

"But of course the recession has hit us harder than a lot of clubs. There's high unemployment in the Birmingham area and people just don't have the money. I reckon our gates fell by as much as 20 per cent for that reason alone.

"There's nothing I'd like more than to give our fans some success. They've been waiting a long time and they deserve something to cheer. It's important that we try to bring them back by challenging for the major honours."

Smith has gone Dutch in an effort to boost his side's goalscoring rate and the £175,000 paid to Willem II for striker Tony van Mierlo could turn out to be money very well spent.

Other new faces may follow before the big kick-off but the strain on finances at St. Andrews, a problem faced by a number of clubs, means there would have to be departures too in order to balance the books.

Battling to be the top team in Birmingham, Villa's Allan Evans and Ken McNaught outjump Steve Lynex and Frank Worthington.

'Villa's success good for Blues'

SAYS BIRMINGHAM BOSS JIM SMITH

Last season was one of consolidation for Blues as they successfully established themselves in the First Division again after one year downstairs.

"We had some good results last season," he says, "like home wins over Forest, Arsenal and Spurs and two draws with both Liverpool and West Bromwich Albion. But at the same time we dropped silly points which cost us dearly in the end."

"We all know there's little point in achieving success on a one-off basis in such a long competition as the Championship. Wins here and there are okay, but it's consistency that counts."

"I don't believe our players are that far behind those at Villa or some of the other leading clubs. They just need a few good results to boost their confidence and then hopefully keep it going."

Smith is well aware that a successful Blues side will soon have the missing fans flocking through the St. Andrews turnstiles again. Last season's average of just over 19,000 was more than 5,000 down on the promotion winning campaign the previous year.

Gates slumped towards the end

One encouraging sign for Blues fans last term was the emergence of youngsters like Phil Hawker and Ian Handysides and they, together with other comparatively young players such as Alan Curbishley, Mark Dennis and Kevan Broadhurst, will have benefited from a year in the First Division.

And during the club's end-of-season tour to Colombia, Honduras, Peru and Guatemala another up-and-coming star staked his claim for a place in the squad. "Young Les Phillips only



Villa's David Geddiss blasts his side's third goal past Birmingham 'keeper Jeff Wealands in their 3-0 victory at Villa Park last season.

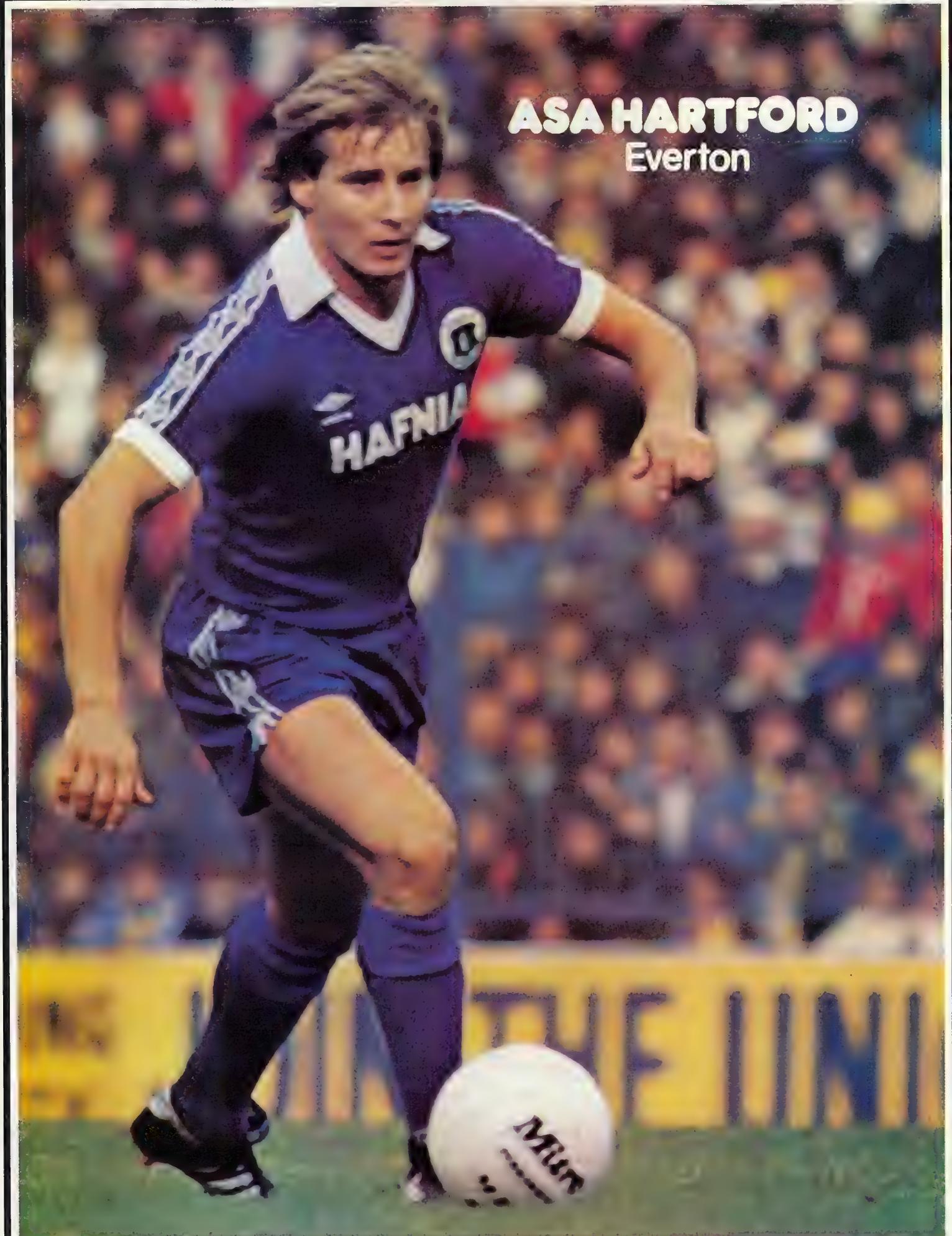
travelled because we had so many injuries," says Smith, "but he did well enough to show that he'll be challenging next season."

But Blues will also rely on experience in key positions. There's the defensive double act of Joe Gallagher and Colin Todd, midfield dynamo Archie Gemmill and striker Frank Worthington,

who has been spending the summer with Tampa Bay Rowdies in the North American Soccer League.

Worthington was out on his own as the club's top marksman last season with 16 goals in the First Division, and his spell in the States will have given him some extra shooting practice. Blues fans will be keen to see how he teams up with new boy van Mierlo.

With Villa determined to prove that their title success was no fluke, Birmingham-based fans can look ahead to an intriguing season.



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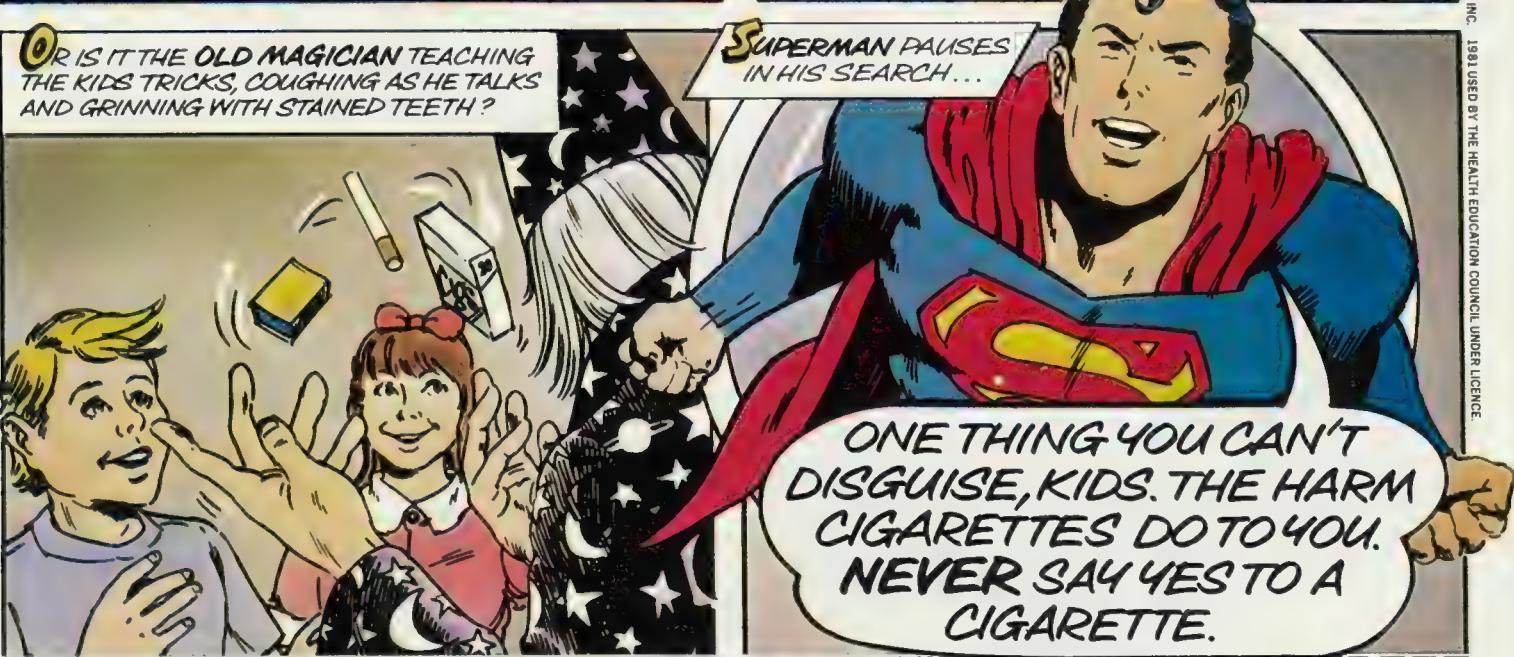
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New managers looking forward to 1981/82

ALLEN WANTS 20 MORE GOALS FROM ALBION

RONNIE Allen has managed clubs from Walsall to Bilbao and from Wolverhampton to Lisbon. He even had a spell in charge of the national team of oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

Yet of all these teams, the side he has a special affinity with is West Bromwich Albion.

When Ron Atkinson left The Hawthorns for Manchester United in June it was no surprise when Albion chose Allen once more as their manager.

Allen took the job partly because of his good relationship with the Albion supporters.

Says Allen: "So many of them were writing to me and asking me why didn't I apply for the job and I decided to take the chance.

"If the club invited me back they must have liked what I'd done before."

Allen has now begun his third spell with Albion. He played for them for 12 years as well as winning five caps for England as a striker.

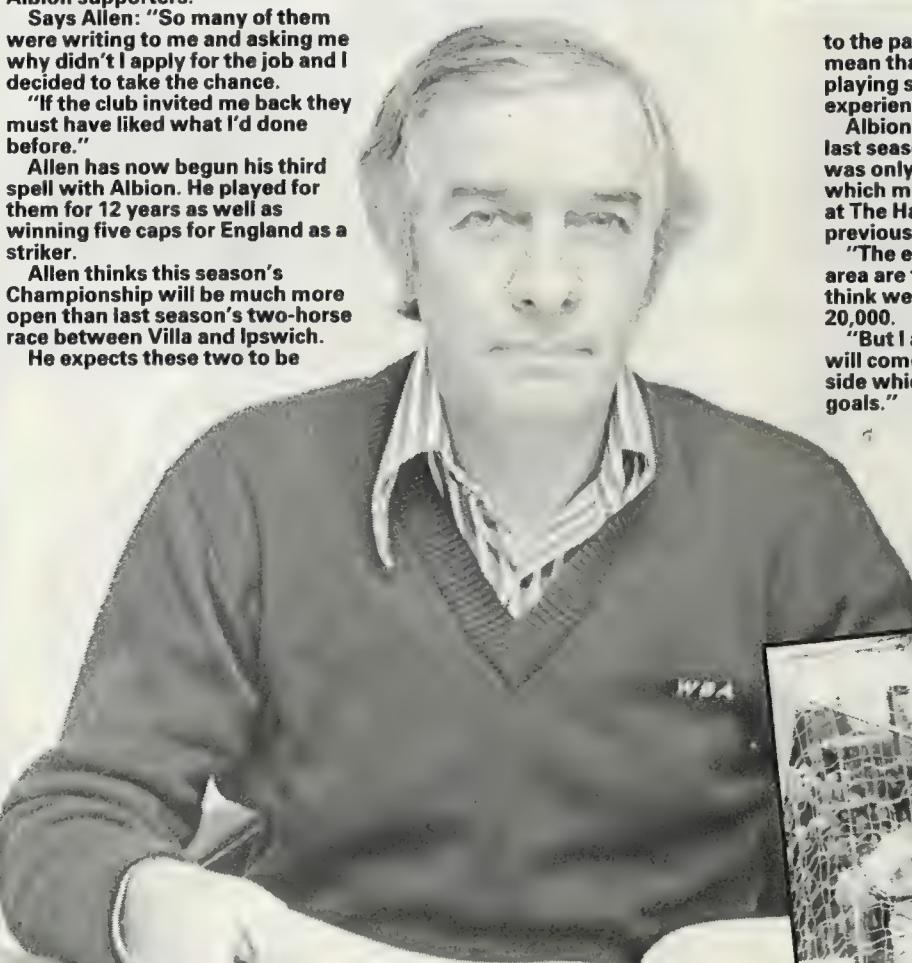
Allen thinks this season's Championship will be much more open than last season's two-horse race between Villa and Ipswich. He expects these two to be

strong contenders along with Nottingham Forest and Liverpool.

"In fact the top half of last term's First Division will all be in with a chance because the Liverpool stranglehold of a few years ago is not as strong as it was."

To help make sure Albion are fighting for the top spot Allen has appointed captain John Wile as player-coach.

"At all the clubs I've managed I've always taken the captain into my confidence," says Ronnie. "John will carry on where I leave off, the moment the team gets on



PLAYER-MANAGER HUGHES HOPES NOT TO PLAY

EMLYN Hughes said it took him just 15 minutes to make possibly the most important decision of his career, when he agreed to leave Wolverhampton Wanderers to join Second Division Rotherham United as their player/manager.

"You might expect someone to deliberate over a move like that — especially as it's my first taste of management — for days, rather than minutes," said Emlyn. "But when I went to London to meet the chairman, Anton Johnson, that's all the time it took me to realise that this was too good an opportunity to pass up."

"It was a two-way thing, because the chairman obviously felt that I'd be as good for the club as they would be for me. Although I haven't been here long, and the real business of playing football and getting results hasn't begun yet, I can honestly say I've enjoyed every minute of it so far."

"In fact, I've been bubbling over with enthusiasm ever since I set

foot at Millmoor. It reminds me of how I felt as a youngster, when I first went to Liverpool.

"I told SHOOT readers last May that player/manager particularly appealed to me. I've always said I'd like to continue playing for as long as I can. Far too many players quit before they need to. So I've no intention of hanging up my boots for good, just yet."

'Concentrate'

"But having said that, I'd be more than happy if, at the end of next season, the records show that I've only played a handful of games for the first team. Because that would mean that the side had been playing well enough to do without me, and consequently, I will have had more time to concentrate on the business of simply managing the club."

Emlyn, of course, couldn't have wished for any finer examples of successful soccer managers than

to the park. The 'coach' tag will not mean that he will cut down on the playing side. We need his experience on the pitch."

Albion did not attract large gates last season. The average crowd was only around the 20,000 mark which meant 49,000 fewer people at The Hawthorns than the previous season.

"The economic problems in the area are terrible," says Allen. "I think we've a hard-core support of 20,000."

"But I am confident that the fans will come back to see an Albion side which wins games and scores goals."

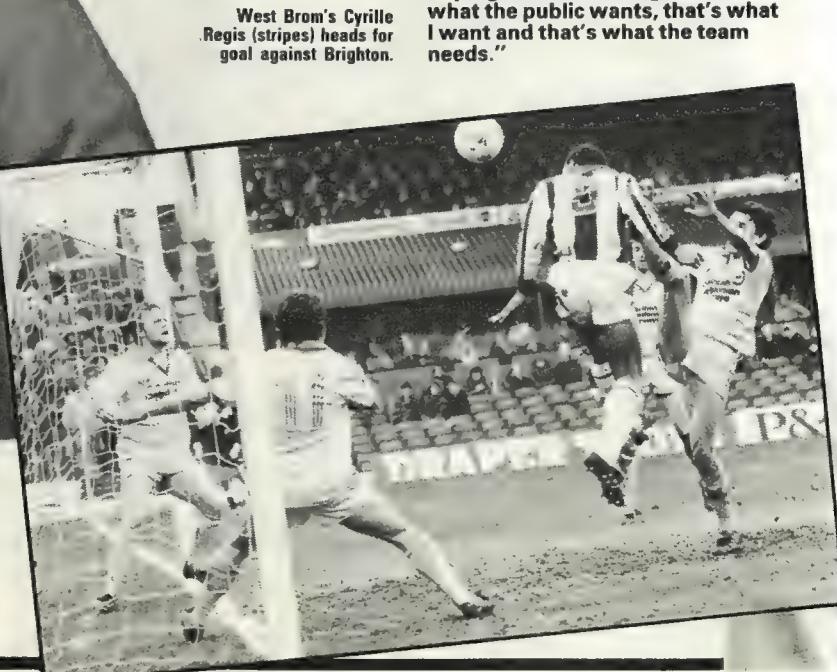
He expects Albion to do well next season.

"We have a good squad with some highly talented players. If we can score another 15 to 20 goals next season we can go places."

Last season lack of goalscoring was one of Albion's main problems. Top scorer was Cyrille Regis with 14 League goals. Only two other players — Ally Brown and Bryan Robson — managed double figures.

Allen does not plan to make any immediate signings. "I want goalscorers but the players I would like are not available."

"We have a lot of young players at the club and a few experienced ones which is a nice blend. We are hoping to score more goals. That's what the public wants, that's what I want and that's what the team needs."





Emlyn Hughes with Rotherham chairman Anton Johnson

the two men he played under at Liverpool — first Bill Shankly and then Bob Paisley.

"If I had the power to gift myself just one of the many talents and virtues of each of them, then it would be Shanks' tremendous enthusiasm, and Bob's unrivalled knowledge of the game.

"Both Bill and Bob have made it clear to me that if I should need any help or advice at all, I've only got to pick up the telephone and call them. You don't know how reassuring that is for a novice like me, because I can't imagine any

problem, no matter how big, that between them they wouldn't know how to handle."

Hughes openly admits that as a player, he had more success, in both European and domestic competitions, as well as on the international front, than he ever imagined possible, even in his wildest dreams as a youngster.

"If I'm even half as successful as a manager, then I'll be a very happy and lucky man indeed," he said.

PORTERFIELD CAN RESCUE UNITED

IN 1975 Sheffield United finished the season in sixth place in the First Division, narrowly missing out of European football. Next season they play in the Fourth Division.

Six years ago the new £750,000 South Stand looked gorgeous in the sun.

It has never been filled and a

short while ago, with the memory still fresh, the loyal supporters who had just seen their team relegated by a penalty by Walsall witnessed assaults on three Walsall players by invading hooligans.

In the past six years there have been various managers at the club.

The canny, earnest Scot Jimmy Sirrel, the quiet, conscientious local man, Cec Coldwell (successful caretaker manager), the joking, expansive Mancunian Harry Haslam and Londoner Martin Peters, the former West Ham, Spurs and England star.

Purpose

With the benefit of hindsight, it's possible that they all lacked the one ingredient the Steel City job demanded which new manager Ian Porterfield has in abundance — youthful determination coupled with a purpose of steel.

He will need it to try to handle one of the biggest challenges facing any manager in the country today.

The size of the challenge — to rescue a demoralised side — was something he could not turn his back on after leading Rotherham to promotion to the Second Division.

As United trained for the coming season builders were laying the foundations for the new offices and dressing rooms to be ready in the Autumn under the South Stand.

Inside Porterfield was doing his homework in preparation for the new season.



NO manager this coming season will have his results under closer scrutiny than Wrexham's Mel Sutton. This 35-year-old former Aston Villa and Cardiff City wing-half is now in charge at the Racecourse after one of football's most bizarre musical chair episodes.

First Arfon Griffiths resigned the post in a typically courageous stand. He was instructed to reduce costs among the backroom staff . . . who included Mel Sutton as his assistant and Mickey Evans who is now the club's number two!

First Wrexham wanted former manager John Neal back in charge after his dismissal at Middlesbrough — but he went to Chelsea. Then Gordon Lee, who had parted company with Everton, was offered the post — but rejected it.

Next in line was one of football's most hunted young number twos: Wolves assistant manager Richie Barker. But he was not prepared to lower his sights beyond the First Division and finally succeeded his

former.

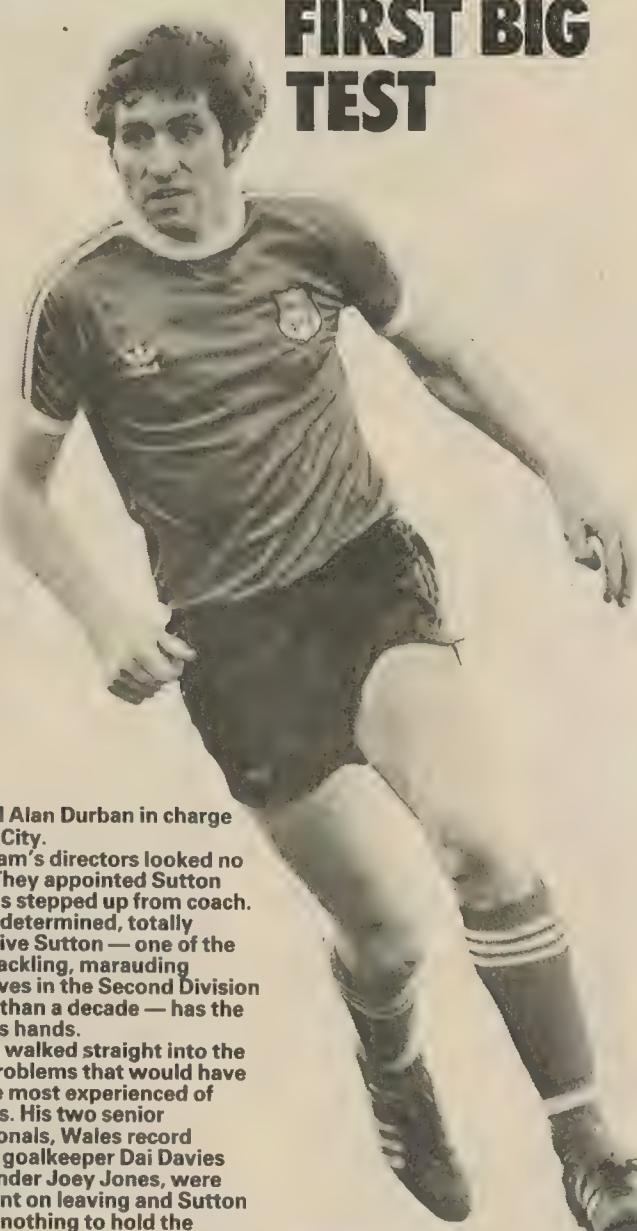
Davies, his contract over at Wrexham, decided that the First Division promotion by his former club, Swansea City, was now his target — but Wrexham have a ready-made 22-year-old replacement in Eddie Niedzwiecki.

Griffiths always maintained: "I've got the two best goalkeepers in Welsh football in Dai and Eddie," and now Sutton responds: "This is Eddie's chance. It is what he wanted and he has got the job. I won't be looking around for anyone else." Sutton came through his first big test; he persuaded Jones that his future was still at Wrexham, and the former Liverpool full-back agreed to stay.

"He is most important to us," says Sutton, who with his defence now settled will be looking for an impressive return up front from the fast improving Steve Fox.

This lithe, quick moving striker now has a season and a half of exciting first team football behind him and Sutton says: "He can only get better — and that is quite a thought!"

SUTTON PASSES HIS FIRST BIG TEST



old friend Alan Durban in charge of Stoke City.

Wrexham's directors looked no further. They appointed Sutton and Evans stepped up from coach. Now the determined, totally competitive Sutton — one of the fiercest tackling, marauding wing-halves in the Second Division for more than a decade — has the club in his hands.

Sutton walked straight into the kind of problems that would have taxed the most experienced of managers. His two senior internationals, Wales record breaking goalkeeper Dai Davies and defender Joey Jones, were both intent on leaving and Sutton could do nothing to hold the



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'I'M HAPPY, AGAIN'

WHEN I reported back for pre-season training with Nottingham Forest, I can't remember feeling so relaxed and ready to play again.

The complete break I had from the game, even though it meant pulling out of England's squad for the British Championship and World Cup qualifying games, did me the world of good.

It gave me the opportunity to have a deep think about the future and sharpen my appetite for the game again after year round involvement for the last few seasons.

Last year, for example, I barely got two weeks holiday with my family after playing for Forest in the European Cup Final and then linking up with the England lads immediately afterwards.

When I rushed back from holiday with my family, I hardly had time to unpack before dashing off on a tour of the States with Forest.

That might seem glamorous to some people, but that level of pressure has got to take its toll on

you and it certainly did with me. I needed a break from the game to consider my future after announcing that I wanted to leave Forest and although I have now decided I don't want to go abroad to play, I want to have more talks with Brian Clough before saying what I've got in mind.

Getting away — I had six weeks in a holiday cottage in Devon — gave me the chance to have a clear look at things.

And I was delighted that I didn't have to go abroad on holiday to get the relaxation I wanted.

The people around us in Devon recognised me, but at no time was I pestered . . . not even on crowded beaches.

It could have been a nightmare for my wife Sue and I to be constantly asked questions but the way English people respected our privacy just confirmed to me that this is the country to be in.

Recent developments have made it much more likely that I'll be staying with Forest after all. No promises at the moment, but I won't be disappointed to stay at the City Ground.

KEEP UP WITH SHILTON

I'VE made up my mind that when my playing days are over, I definitely want to move into management.

It's something I've been giving a lot of consideration to in recent months and although I did have doubts at one time about staying in the game, I now know what I want to do.

But there is no rush for me to switch from the playing side to the manager's chair — far from it.

The likes of Kevin Keelan and Pat Jennings — not to mention Dino Zoff who is still playing international football for Italy at the age of 40 — have shown that goalkeepers can carry on playing much longer than outfield players.

International

I certainly believe I've got plenty of years ahead of me and although there are a lot of young goalkeepers around itching to take over at international level from Ray Clemence and myself, I think I speak for both of us in saying there is plenty of life in us yet.

I'm certainly looking forward to returning to the England squad and competing with Ray for the goalkeeper's spot when we hopefully qualify for the World Cup Finals.

Dino Zoff, still going strong for Italy at the age of 40.



'I WANT TO, RUN A CLUB'

And I don't think it's ridiculous to suggest that I will be around not only for the 1982 World Cup but for the 1986 competition as well.

It's certainly the way I see things at the moment because I can't recall having so much enthusiasm.

I want to carry on in the best League in the world and forget the idea of going abroad.

I can understand why Joe Jordan, who as an outfield player has probably got another two or three years left at the top, wants to go to Italy but I'm certain I'm doing the right thing in staying put.

However, I won't be appearing in the pages of SHOOT quite so much as this is my final column. Take care, and wish me luck.

Pete Shilton



ENGLISH SUPERSTARS

'They're still learning the game' says GORDON STRACHAN

If everything goes according to plan, Gordon Strachan and Graeme Souness (GS and GS to Scottish fans) will be the midfield foundation from which Scotland's World Cup Finals bid in Spain will be launched.

Souness is already used to the heady atmosphere of European and international success, winning two European Cup winners medals with Liverpool and playing against Holland in the last game of the hardly memorable three-match stay in Argentina in '78.

Strachan, on the other hand, is still sampling the delights of being one of the country's elitists.

"Spain next year?" he says. "What a lovely thought! We began our World Cup campaign against Sweden where I was lucky enough to score the only goal of the game.

"It would be wonderful to think that we could go all the way and make up for the disappointments of Argentina.

"I'm desperate to play my part for my country, but prefer to play my way back into Mr. Stein's plans rather than talk my way in. I don't think he would listen anyway!"

"I'll be doing all I can to catch Jock Stein's attention, believe me. Last season's injury was a real sickener and now I want to make up for lost time.

"At the start of the season I found I lacked a little sharpness, but that is hardly surprising, I suppose.

"The quick turns and runs weren't quite what they were last season before my injury.

"But they will come back, I assure you. This is a crucial period in my soccer life and I'm going to relish the coming months.

"I've never been known as a quitter in the past and my reputation isn't going to change now with so much at stake.

"I want to help Aberdeen back to where they belong at the top of Scottish soccer and I am determined to do everything in my power to help Scotland become successful at world level."

Strachan is as direct with his word off the field as he is with his accurate passing on the pitch.

Over-rated

He feels some players in England are over-rated and says: "Some of them really don't deserve the superstar status that has been thrust upon them.

"Don't get me wrong. I'm not knocking them just for the sake of it. There are some very good players South of the border, but a number of them are still basically learning the game.

"They are good, talented players, but, honestly, when I talk about a soccer superstar I think of someone such as Pele, Franz Beckenbauer or Johan Cruyff.

"It's not fair to lumber some

Strachan (dark strip) in action for Aberdeen against Airdrie before his stomach muscle injury last season.

young players with tags so early in their careers."

Arsenal and Manchester United are just two English clubs who would be delighted to have the sprightly Strachan on their books.

However, Pittodrie manager Alex Ferguson is adamant that there hasn't been enough money printed to persuade him into let-

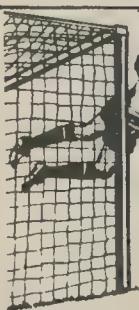
ting his midfield maestro leave The Dons.

As Strachan rightly points out, this is a crucial, vital period in his career. He has already shown immense courage in beating the torn stomach muscle injury which threatened his career last season.

With the same sort of bravery he is looking forward to teaming up alongside the equally gifted Graeme Souness to help rid Scotland of the 'joke' tag that settled upon them during the last attempt at triumph in the World Cup arena.

Strachan, in that sort of mood, is undoubtedly a player any country would welcome into their line-up.

He knows that quite a few other midfield men have staked a strong claim for a place in the Scottish team during his absence, and that is why Gordon Strachan is so determined to make a good start to the season. He has a lot of lost ground to make up before Spain.



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'I've a lot to prove at Wolves'

I WAS extremely flattered to pick up the newspapers and find myself linked with Manchester United. After taking more than a few knocks over the past couple of years, it gave me a boost to be mentioned in a transfer rumour.

But in reality it meant nothing. Wolves have no intention of selling me and I have no intention of asking for a transfer. Perhaps when I've done my job at Molineux we'll think again . . . but in the meantime my priority is to help put Wolves back where they belong.

I still have a lot to prove with the club. I've not scored nearly enough goals and I want to give the Wolves supporters something to really get excited about.

In my defence, every striker depends on good service and I've always been confident that with the right service the ball will end up in the back of the net.

What Wolves must do is to work as hard as we did two seasons ago. We lost that impetus somewhere along the line and I can understand people making us relegation candidates for the coming season.

We were a poor side last time round, but I happen to believe we are better than we showed — now, we must prove it.

The club has worked extremely hard pre-season. A year ago we complained to the manager that we hadn't done enough, but we've

"Opponents will pay Villa more respect."



more than made up for it this year.

I had a complete break during the summer — six weeks abroad and almost a month at home, my niggling injuries seem to have vanished.

The next year is a big one, not just with Wolves, but I'm desperate to ensure I'm in the Scotland squad that I'm confident will reach the World Cup Finals.

I've never been as disappointed as when Ally MacLeod left me out of the 22 who went to Argentina. It's been a long three years since I want to play so well that Jock Stein can't leave me out.

I think the change of style for Wolves will help me. Richie Barker, who worked so well with John Barnwell after the boss's car crash, has gone to Stoke and we all wish him well in his first big-time managerial appointment.

Under the new coach, Ian Ross, I suspect we'll alter our build-up from the kick-and-rush style to having more players involved in attacks.

The Championship race will, I feel, be wide open. I said this time last year that Liverpool wouldn't win the title — that a 'new' club would. I think the same will happen in 1981-82, with Villa handing their crown to someone else . . . even if I'm not sure who.

Crucial

It could be Ipswich Town, if they're not involved in as many competitions at such a crucial stage of the season — you can never write-off Liverpool — Manchester United could be in with a shout if they can adequately replace Joe Jordan — while Leeds are the best outsiders; I can't see them giving many goals away.

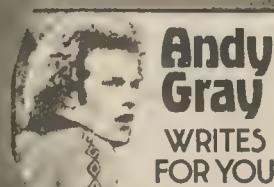
Villa will find defending their Championship hard, just as Forest did when they 'came from nowhere' to take the title. Opponents will pay Villa more respect, although if their players improve they'll be a force again.

Wolves kick-off 1981/82 with a home game against Liverpool. It could be worse — like Brighton. I'm serious — The Seagulls have thrashed us four times since they were promoted.

We've beaten Liverpool 1-0 and 4-1 in the previous two clashes at Molineux, so they won't relish coming here.

As the season gets under way, I'll be handing over to a new columnist and if he enjoys writing for SHOOT as much as I have he'll have a happy few years.

I'll be back from time to time, but meanwhile thanks for reading me over the past four years.



How to clean-up football



Top referee Ron Challis, who has just retired, believes that officials must

- Stop time wasting
- Punish the professional foul
- Introduce sin bin

RON CHALLIS, one of the top referees in the country, retired at the end of last season with a plea to players to follow a golden rule which would improve soccer as an entertainment. He wants them to accept officials' decisions without dissent and suggests that management must give the lead. Challis, who blew his whistle for the last time in a Football League match at Fratton Park, Portsmouth, on April 25th, after 19 years on the League's referees and linesman's lists, wants to put something back into the game. He starts by calling for a decrease in time wasting; action to combat the professional foul or as he prefers to call it the last ditch foul. He has taken a part-time job as Kent F.A.'s referees training officer and would like to be a Football League assessor, a system which he favours. But Challis, a magazine production manager, comes down against the introduction of full-time referees.

Accept the decision of the referee or linesman without any form of dissent — that's one of my golden rules of soccer for players to follow.

The lead has got to come from their management, but if players complied then I'm quite sure that the game would benefit.

Players' conduct could help to raise entertainment standards and could influence the hooliganism and spectator reaction which everyone condemns today, although I don't pretend it would effect a complete cure.

I'm not saying that all decisions of officials are correct but no referee, to my knowledge, has ever changed his mind just because a player has shown his disagreement in an aggressive or dissenting manner.

Referees are human, and if a player asks you properly to consider something then you're much more likely to respond.

A referee's performance would be better, too, if players didn't keep questioning decisions. That can often affect an official and put him off his stroke.

Players should know what it's like to have someone on their backs — they sometimes find themselves out of favour with their own fans and have even asked for a move to escape.

One thing which infuriates the fans — and opponents — is deliberate time wasting. The game could well do without it and so could officials because we find it very difficult to control.

Take the old trick of gaining a few yards at a throw-in.

Gamership? — not necessarily, it's also a time wasting dodge because players know that they will be stopped and called back.

Whatever you call it, the spectators are quickly upset. It's something that referees should try and stamp out within the first 15 minutes.

Time wasting now has become much more subtle. A more recent trick is to kick or throw the ball to the referee when there's a stoppage. It would appear to be good manners but it's not — it's wasting time.

Free kick situations are just as difficult. Players stand over the ball, deciding who is going to take it. All very technical you may think but it could sometimes be interpreted as time wasting.

Pleased

So a referee has to ensure that the players know that the watch has stopped and that it won't start again until the game does.

In my last season I was pleased to note that the premeditated type of foul is thankfully, on the decrease.

Undoubtedly some injuries are more serious than they were but very often that's because of the extra speed at which players go in and out of the tackle. More pace and skill means that there is an even smaller area for misjudgement.

Efforts now seem to be concentrated more on the stopping type of offence. I've always contended, however, that

if a player beats you fairly you've got to let him go.

I'm not in favour of continual tinkering with the laws — the game is attractive because basically they're simple. But I would like to see something done about what's commonly called the

"professional foul".

That really means a foul committed by a professional and I would prefer to label it the "last ditch" foul. It's now the kind of offence which is to be seen too frequently at all levels.

Professional players have taught it by example and it's terrible that we should see it in junior football.

I mean the trip, the push or the hold, to stop someone going for goal just outside the penalty area. A goal looks certain and then the player is stopped unfairly.

The foul itself is probably not serious but the position in which it happens is important. The incident can turn the match and quite bluntly it's cheating.

There's no obvious solution but I would like to see an effort made to combat the "last ditch" foul.

A sin bin, as they have in ice-hockey, might be the answer. The argument against it is that you can't introduce legislation for just one competition. If you had sin bins at Anfield and Highbury you would have them at Hackney Marshes on Sunday mornings.

Yet I feel it's a move which could lead to a change of attitude at management level. Players would have to be punished for causing a situation which put their colleagues under extra pressure and possibly lost them the game.

Let's face it, the stiffer the punishment the greater the deterrent. People will always take a chance if the consequences are not too severe.

Inside the penalty area there's no problem — it's a caution for the offender and a penalty for the



opposition. Generally speaking, penalties should not be missed, so the attacking side does not suffer.

The punishment there fits the crime. But when it's just outside the area, is a caution and the award of a free kick sufficient punishment?

Professional referees and assessors — they have been two of the main topics for debate over the years. I come down against the full-time referee and in favour of the assessing system.

Credit

It's a close decision in each case and indeed there's much to be found on the credit side for having professional referees.

They would have more time for training, being able to take part in League club programmes which are usually held in the mornings, when most of us can't get time off work.

A referee needs to arrive at the ground feeling relaxed, with more time to prepare. So doing the job full-time would satisfy those needs.

and he would certainly be fitter because of the extra training. He would also have more time with players and managers, which is very important.

Being involved with players and getting to know what makes them tick is an area in which referees could benefit.

One of the doubts I have about a full-time referee is that it might affect his performance if he was earning his living from the job. Currently, referees take the low financial reward from football and earn their living outside the game. If my livelihood and the security of my family depended on the way I refereed I can't help wondering if it could affect my game.

Having stressed that, the next query would be whether the

full-time referee was attracted into the game to be a good official or merely to earn the big money.

I feel that the top referee of today can benefit from his ordinary working experience. Most of them are in responsible positions and the job is really all about management — of players. It's being able to analyse reactions and deal with people, who during the course of a match, are often caught up in an emotional or tense situation.

In any game there's normally only about five people at the most who might step out of line. It's the minority who get into trouble and we have to assess very quickly in a match where trouble might start. The best referee is the man who weighs up the situation and

controls these players before problems arise.

Before the 1979 F.A. Cup Final between Arsenal and Manchester United my pre-match preparation revealed the direct opposition of Arsenal's Scottish defender Willie Young and United's Scottish striker Joe Jordan.

Two hard, very positive players and although a confrontation may not have been in either player's mind I was determined to ensure that nothing blew up.

Obviously I didn't say anything but the first time the ball went down the middle with United attacking I was right alongside these two players. Continually but very discreetly I made them aware that I was around and would always be in the right place at the right time.

It would be easy after 19 years in the game, having had a lot of glory, to fade away but I want to put something back.

I feel my experience could help other officials, not just those at the top but the junior referees. That's why I am delighted that my own county association in Kent have appointed me as their referees' training officer.

If invited, I would also like to be a Football League assessor. I don't go along with the "Big Brother is watching you" sneers — in general I think it's an excellent scheme.

Tendency

It could, however, benefit from some re-assessment itself. For instance I think there's a tendency for assessors to remain on the list for too long. I don't think they should reach a stage where they find themselves too far removed from the game as they knew it.

Let's face it — club markings, the only other assessment, have got to be biased in some way, that's human nature. It wasn't until the scheme was introduced that I really was told for the first time, by an experienced person, where I might be going wrong.

Remember too that assessors not only criticise, they also praise — and that's vital if a referee is to feel confident.

Confidence and courage are the essential qualities for a referee. If he's lacking in either, managers, coaches and players will soon cotton on.

Even when the team sheets come into our dressing room I've felt that managers are sizing us up. I've noticed people like Malcolm Allison, Brian Clough and Terry Neill staring at us, trying to analyse how we might react later.

New referees particularly come under scrutiny. I'm sure that these days it's part of the function of a scout or a manager's spying mission to make notes of a referee's performance.

One assistant manager told me when he watched his club's next Cup opponents that his manager had suggested he should note my performance too because I was in charge of one of their future League matches.

We can all do without that sort of thing.



Leeds United players make their point to referee John Deakin after Neil Farn (above number five) is sent-off against Brighton last season. Ipswich Town's Eric Gates (left) is sent crashing to the ground after a tackle from behind.



Managers, like Brian Clough, often size officials up before games.



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POWER

SPURS fans probably didn't realise just how close Glenn Hoddle came to leaving White Hart Lane this summer for a glamorous Continental club.

So disillusioned was the 24-year-old England star after not kicking a competitive ball on England's World Cup tour of Switzerland and Hungary that he had decided to get away.

On holiday in Tampa, Florida, he spoke about his situation with three or four Spurs and England team-mates who were staying in the same hotel and the impression Hoddle left was that he wanted to try his luck abroad.

What made Hoddle change his mind was almost certainly his love for Spurs rather than the reported £1,000 a week wage supposedly offered to him.

Hoddle is very much a Tot-

tenham fan as well as a player, while his wife, Ann, enjoys her job as a schoolteacher near their Bishop's Stortford home.

Glenn says: 'Yes, it's true I'd decided to leave Spurs at one time. The England tour was a real 'low' for me. When Ron Greenwood didn't pick me for the Hungary game, after the defeat in Switzerland, he almost destroyed me without realising it.'

"The win in Budapest proves Ron was correct in his team selection. I was thrilled when the lads won, even if I felt a bit empty afterwards.

"I wondered if I had a future with England or even in England. I asked myself if I'd be better off elsewhere . . . if a Continental club had come in with a firm offer then I would probably have

or later. My new contract gives me security and, after all, I'll still only be 26 when it expires."

What frustrates Hoddle is that he hasn't had a real opportunity to show his skills to a wider audience. His England appearances have been restricted for a number of reasons, and he must wonder what he has to do to claim a regular place in Greenwood's team.

Few people doubt Hoddle's skill. And over the past year or so he has improved his stamina and the defensive side of his game, without losing any of his goal-power.

It's unlikely the Spurs man will play for England against Norway in September. Bar injury, Greenwood will surely stick to the 11 experienced campaigners who won in Hungary.

Hoddle had decided to leave Spurs

signed."

Hoddle admits he had talks with Arsenal (heaven forbid) and Manchester United, although The Gunners were really non-runners.

"I'll never forget what my 14-year-old brother, Carl, said to me. I told him I was meeting Terry Neill and he remarked: 'If you sign for them I'll never talk to you again!'

"Carl's on associated schoolboy forms with Spurs and, like me, is a Tottenham nut."

Hoddle's plans now are to help Spurs win the European Cup-Winners' Cup and build on their Wembley success; to join a Continental club in 1983 for three years; and then, perhaps, return to White Hart Lane.

"I have a deep affection for Spurs, so there's every chance I'll return one day."

"I definitely want to play abroad. The challenge excites me — it was a question of whether I went now

Should England win in Norway, Greenwood would then be reluctant to make many changes for the last and vital qualifier against the Hungarians at Wembley in November.

At least Hoddle now has Europe, and an intriguing clash with former European aces Ajax should be a good test for him and the team.

"I don't know whether staying here will improve my chances of playing for England," he says. "Obviously the manager can see me more often now, but had I gone to Spain and been successful it would have been a help with the World Cup being staged there next summer."

Hoddle seems to know what he wants and where he's going. Spurs fans will be happy that their favourite Spurs fan is staying with the club . . . for the time being, at least.

Hoddle hammers in a spectacular volley for England against Spain at Wembley.







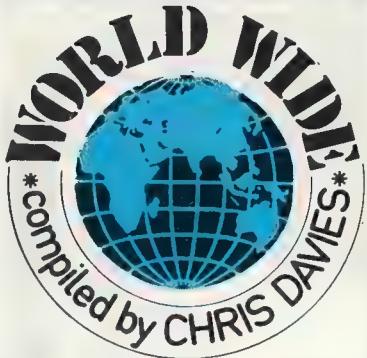
KENNY SANSOM
Arsenal and England

More German soccer on TV

THE West German F.A. and ARD, the TV channel that screens highlights of Bundesliga games on Saturdays, have agreed on a 20% increase for 1981-82.

The F.A. will receive almost £2 million, sharing out £66,000 to each of the clubs in Bundesliga I and II.

And they have made it plain that they will also want a share of the profits made by selling video-cassettes and also the screening of Bundesliga matches in the USA, Canada and Japan, though details have yet to be worked out.



SAVED BY THE REF

ON the last day of the Yugoslav Championship, OFK Belgrade were saved from relegation by the referee.

At home to NK Zagreb, the game was goalless when after 22 minutes the referee sent-off a Zagreb player.

His colleagues protested so violently that another Zagreb player got the red card.

The protests went on and finally the referee abandoned the match.

Under F.A. rules that gave OFK a 3-0 win, lifting them above Borac (Banja Luka) who now go down with bottom club Napredak.

IT is possible Brazilian star Falcao of Roma will be sold to a club in Saudi Arabia, the same one that tried to hire Socrates for 4,500,000 U.S. dollars for one year (not to mention what would be paid to Corinthians, the club national captain Socrates plays for).

The approach to Falcao was made at a dinner at the flat in Rio de Janeiro of an influential Arab-Brazilian businessman who also happens to be a good friend of Pelé.

Pelé was present at the dinner and Falcao let it be known that he was not totally against the idea, provided Roma agreed to sell him.

RIVER PLATE'S Argentine international striker Ramón Díaz (right) hit a spectacular eight-minute hat-trick in the second-half of his side's 1-6 away win against Argentinos Juniors.

The match was played in a strained atmosphere after a week in which River and Argentina skipper Daniel Passarella had been fined, along with midfielder J. J. López, for feigning injury to avoid appearing in a friendly in Brazil.

The incident provoked open warfare between the players and club doctor Héctor Melito, who resigned shortly before the kick-off.

Fortunately River forgot their problems in the second-half, when they hit five goals.

But the humiliating home defeat spells more trouble for Argentinos Juniors, who've plunged deep into relegation trouble since they released Diego Maradona to Boca Juniors.



Joint top scorer for top scorers and Champions in Holland AZ '67 — Tol.

It's goals you want, go to Holland. If you don't head for Italy. A survey of Europe for last season shows there were more goals in the Dutch First Division than any other on the Continent.

Dutch fans saw an average 3.451 goals per game — and a goal every 26 minutes four seconds.

Compare that with the poor Italian supporter whose game averaged less than 1-1 draw and he had to wait 47 minutes and three seconds between goals!

MORE disturbing news about hotels in Spain for next year's World Cup Finals.

The hoteliers on the Costa del Sol are demanding a £250,000 cash advance from the World Cup committee to back up their block bookings of hotel rooms.

One imagines that this problem will be solved, but the interesting fact is that the World Cup organisers have booked only 10,000 rooms.

Bearing in mind that three teams will play there, it could mean a shortage.

BARCELONA'S local rivals Espanyol are earning themselves the reputation as the elephants graveyard of Spanish football by snapping up a series of veteran players at bargain-basement prices.

Apart from their recent signs of Teo Custers, the 31-year-old Belgian international goalkeeper, Espanyol's forward line now reads: Roberto Martínez aged 36, Carlos aged 33, and Rafa Marañón aged 31. Could be the oldest forward line in Europe?



HOLLAND TOPS GOALS LEAGUE

TEAMS	GOALS	GAMES	AVERAGE GOALS PER GAME	1980-81		1979-80		GOAL FREQUENCY	DIFFERENCE IN GOALS FROM PREVIOUS SEASON
				GOALS	GAMES	AVERAGE GOALS PER GAME	GOAL FREQUENCY		
HOLLAND	18	1056	306	3.451	26'04"	884	306	2.888	31'09"
E. GERMANY	14	621	182	3.412	26'22"	525	182	2.844	31'12"
W. GERMANY	18	1038	306	3.392	26'31"	1023	306	3.343	26'55"
LUXEMBURG	12	429	132	3.250	27'41"	414	132	3.136	28'41"
N. IRELAND	12	405	132	3.068	29'19"	399	132	3.022	29'26"
BELGIUM	18	924	306	3.019	29'48"	863	306	2.820	31'54"
DENMARK	16	720	240	3.000	30'00"	711	240	2.962	30'22"
NORWAY	12	392	132	2.968	31'18"	352	132	2.666	33'45"
SWITZERLAND	14	534	182	2.934	30'40"	587	182	3.225	27'54"
FINLAND	12	387	132	2.931	30'41"	382	132	2.893	31'05"
RUMANIA	18	886	306	2.895	31'05"	834	306	2.725	33'01"
AUSTRIA	10	509	180	2.827	31'49"	493	180	2.738	32'51"
FRANCE	20	1071	380	2.818	31'55"	1073	380	2.823	31'52"
IRE	16	665	240	2.770	32'28"	668	240	2.783	32'20"
BULGARIA	16	657	240	2.734	32'52"	632	240	2.663	34'10"
SPAIN	18	833	306	2.722	33'03"	769	306	2.513	35'48"
MALTA	8	151	56	2.696	33'22"	284	90	3.155	28'31"
HUNGARY	18	821	306	2.683	33'32"	965	306	3.153	28'32"
ICELAND	10	241	90	2.677	33'36"	254	90	2.822	31'53"
SCOTLAND	10	481	180	2.672	34'40"	484	180	2.688	33'28"
ENGLAND	22	1223	459	2.664	33'46"	1159	46	2.508	35'52"
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	16	636	240	2.650	33'57"	618	240	2.576	34'57"
YUGOSLAVIA	18	766	305	2.511	35'50"	717	306	2.343	38'24"
SWEDEN	14	443	182	2.434	36'58"	461	182	2.532	35'31"
GREECE	18	719	306	2.349	38'18"	708	306	2.313	38'53"
PORTUGAL	16	560	240	2.333	38'34"	600	240	2.500	36'00"
POLAND	16	549	240	2.287	39'20"	587	240	2.445	36'47"
USSR	18	690	306	2.254	39'54"	757	306	2.473	36'22"
ALBANIA	14	355	182	1.950	46'08"	425	182	2.335	38'32"
TURKEY	16	468	240	1.950	46'09"	422	240	1.758	51'11"
ITALY	16	459	240	1.912	47'03"	452	240	1.883	47'47"
TOTAL	474	19689	7274	2.706	33'15"	19502	7312	2.667	33'44"

THE Chilean national team, who've qualified for the World Cup Finals without conceding a single goal, included a bizarre episode in their preparations for the qualifiers.

The whole squad, plus manager Luis Santibáñez, took part in a TV spectacular and stunned the Chilean public with a very professional display of singing, dancing and comedy routine.



BOCA SEEK A LOAN ARRANGER

IN Diego Maradona, Boca Juniors have the most gifted player in the world. But as regular readers will know, Maradona is also the costliest player in the world and Boca's financial problems get worse almost by the day.

Their debts are estimated to be £4 million; they still owe Diego's previous club Argentinos Juniors £115,000 on the first loan payment and Boca officials are worried that they won't be able to pay the second instalment of the payment due soon.

Boca must also pay back £550,000 to the bank and £150,000 to the Argentina F.A. for loans. They sent the F.A. a cheque for £50,000 recently — and it bounced!

They admit owing money on four other

players and the squad hasn't been paid since May — rumour has it that some players are owed for an even longer period than that.

In an effort to raise money Boca will play anyone, anywhere for £60,000, but clubs consider this price too high.

Meanwhile, Osvaldo Ardiles' old club, Racing, are also in dire straits. Racing have changed more players and managers than any other club since they won the world title in 1967. They have just had to take a loan from the Argentine F.A. to pay their players so they wouldn't be declared free agents. For good measure, Racing's stadium is also falling to bits and they don't have the money to repair it!

Mixed fortunes for Brazil

GOOD news for Brazil coach Tele Santana. Midfielder Falcao was in Brazil on holiday and said that his club, Roma, will agree to release him 47 days before the start of the World Cup.

That will come in handy for Tele, who had said he wouldn't call Falcao if he was not available at least 45 days before the World Cup.

Falcao seems quite happy with his Roman experience, but, he says, happy as a man, not as a football player.

He is happy to live in Italy, happy to be so near other countries in Europe, happy with the opportunity to learn new languages and a new way of living, happy with the opportunity to improve my culture and my general knowledge.

But he is not happy with the style of play in Italian football. He thinks it is too defensive and too hard, with no flair and no technique.

And he also thinks that the level of some refereeing borders on the sheer realm of corruption.

Bad news for Brazil coach Tele Santana. Centre-forward Reinaldo (right) is injured yet again. He has played only once for his club, Atletico Mineiro, since Brazil came back from Europe.

Reinaldo doesn't have a single cartilage left in both knees and in part because of that is always having a string of injuries to his knees, his ankles and his muscles.

Rumours are widespread that he is going to retire soon, even though he is only 22-years-old, but the player has

denied them steadfastly.

Yet Tele cannot stop worrying about how really fit Reinaldo is going to be to play a game every three days, for more than a month, in the next World Cup, even if he is available when the World Cup comes.



IT hasn't been the happiest of seasons for Toronto Blizzard in the NASL, with five wins and 21 losses so far. But despite what happened on a recent road trip, they're not dead yet.

The Blizzard were staying in Inglewood prior to their game against Los Angeles Aztecs. They asked at the hotel if there was a little grass field nearby where they could work out.

The desk clerk said there was a nice little park, just up the street and around the corner.

And it was, just as the desk clerk said, beautiful. As cemeteries go . . .

STRANGE how Paraguayan football has gone up and down like a yo-yo in the last couple of years.

In 1979 they were South American Champions, having beaten mighty Brazil en route to the title, and at club level Olimpia snatched the Continent's top prize, the Copa Libertadores.

But in 1981 the national team finished last in its World Cup qualifying group (behind even Ecuador!) and now their two clubs participating in the Copa Libertadores have been effortlessly swept aside by the Brazilians.

might call a blow-by-blow commentary?

Raymond Jaspers to Waterschei Thor.

For the first time in their 93-year history, the Budapest club MTK will play in Division Two next season. In the Fifties MTK were known as Red Banner and with players like Nandor Hidegkuti regularly provided half the national team.

After winning the Belgian Championship Anderlecht have had a clear-out of players. Amongst those moving were Arie Haan and Johnny Dusbaba (both Holland caps) to Standard-Liege; Benny Nielsen (to St. Etienne); Ronny Martens (to Beveren) and

Anatoli Sinchenko, the only Russian player so far allowed to join a club in the West, has returned to Zenith Leningrad. Thirty-one, and a centre-forward, he made a disappointing start to last season with SC Rapid (Vienna) and after the club engaged Hans Krankl on loan from Barcelona, the Russian played only one game when Krankl was unfit.

Bernd Thiele, the hard man of Schalke 04 (Gelsenkirchen) topped the list of Bundesliga players collecting yellow cards in 1980-81 with 11 . . . from only 34 matches.

GOAL KING QUINI

BARCELONA striker Quini is certainly having an eventful year.

Despite being kidnapped for a month, he hit 29 League and Cup goals to top the Spanish charts in his first season with the Catalan club since leaving Sporting Gijón.

But Quini's goal-tally included two in the Spanish Cup Final against Sporting Gijón, and they didn't go down too well with the fans who'd idolised him for 12 years.

Three days later, Quini dislocated his elbow in a testimonial and, hearing that his father was desperately ill, he hurried home to Gijón to spend his holidays with the family.

His father recovered after three operations, but poor Quini spent the most miserable time of his life, with fans in the city ripping his photographs off bar walls, refusing to speak to him, and even spitting at him in the street. He's now delighted to be back in training with Barcelona!

'NO MORE ATTACKING FOOTBALL FOR US' Spain boss Santamaria

Satrustegui acknowledges his goal as Spain win 2-1 at Wembley in March.



BY this time next year we'll know who's won the World Cup. Brazil and Argentina will start as favourites, and the Spanish venue will give them as South American an atmosphere as they'll ever get in Europe.

But recent history tells us that the host nation is always in with a serious chance. And Spain's performance when they beat England 2-1 at Wembley at the end of March suggested to British fans and critics that they could be a major force on their home soil next year. But, as SHOOT discovered in an interview with Spain's national team manager, 'Pepe' Santamaria, the Spaniards' own view of their chances is less optimistic . . .

SHOOT: You say that you haven't yet found the right blend for your side, but Spain gave an impressive all-round performance at Wembley.

SANTAMARIA: Yes, we got a good result against England, and I was happy about that performance. But three weeks later we lost 0-3 to Hungary, and I was unhappy about that one. We're short of consistency.

SHOOT: You're not exactly optimistic about Spain's chances — where does that leave England?

SANTAMARIA: To be honest, I got a good impression of England. They're strong, and they play positive football that's good to watch. That night we simply stifled their key men and didn't give them a chance to play their game. And in spite of that result, I insist that England, assuming they qualify, will be one of our most dangerous rivals in the World Cup.

SHOOT: But Juanito and Zamora showed a level of talent that seems to be lacking in the England set-up.

SANTAMARIA: The difference was that Juanito, for example, had lots more freedom than Keegan when it came to receiving the ball and building attacks. Both he and Zamora were successful in exploiting areas of the pitch where we knew there would be space — and this is perhaps where England's stereotyped system let them down. We knew where to find space, we found it, and they never did anything to try and stop us.

SHOOT: Spain seem to perform much better away than at home. Will this be a problem when you're the World Cup hosts next year?

SANTAMARIA: Yes. Most countries prefer to play a counter-attacking game these days — and

we're no exception. If you look at all the clubs in the Spanish Leagues you'll see that practically all of them play a mainly defensive game with a 4-4-2 formation. And our 0-3 defeat by Hungary at Valencia underlined the fact that Spain just can't afford to play attacking football. As soon as we push defenders up into attack, people catch us on the break. Attacking play is just suicidal, and from now on, we'll be playing defensive football.

SHOOT: Do you agree that South American teams will start as favourites next year?

SANTAMARIA: Cautiously, but yes. In the Copa de Oro they prepared their teams far more conscientiously than the Europeans, so I don't think we should use that as a guide. Having said that, I feel that they could be in at the kill next year. Uruguay have finally produced a good team — I emphasise the word team! Brazil have improved a great deal, and Argentina certainly haven't declined since 1978. These countries are now producing sides with a high level of both technical skill and physical fitness, so I think we must keep a very close eye on them.

SHOOT: Can Spain become World Champions?

SANTAMARIA: I don't predict that. All I hope is that we can play up to our full potential.

SHOOT: Is it an advantage or disadvantage to be the host nation?

SANTAMARIA: A lot will depend on our opening game. If we win, I think the public will be 100 per cent with us, and the Press will be more enthusiastic about our chances. So the players will take the field in a more relaxed frame of mind. If we lose, the same things will happen in reverse!

ASTON VILLA

Require 37 goals next season to reach 5,000 in Division One.

ARSENAL

Their first defeat will be their 1,000th in League Football.

BOLTON W.

The 19th goal they concede will be the 1,000th in Division Two. Their fifth goal will be their 5,000th League goal.

BLACKBURN R.

Will be playing their 1,000th Second Division game in their 34th match. They have now passed 1,000 points in Division Two (1,009).

BURNLEY

Need 46 goals to reach 5,000 in League football.

BLACKPOOL

Will be playing in their first season in Division Four and their 34th game will be their 3,000th League match.

COVENTRY C.

Have averaged exactly a point a game since joining the League. 2,358 games 2,358 points. Won 880. Lost 880.

CARLISLE U.

They require another 34 points for 2,000 League points.

CREWE A.

Their 36th League match will be their 1,000th game in Division Four.

DARLINGTON

Their eighth defeat next season will be the 1,000th in League football.

EVERTON

Their ninth goal of the season will be their 5,000th in Division One.

FULHAM

Their 14th goal of the season will be their 4,000th League goal. If they concede 55 goals they will have had 4,000 scored against them.

Milestones to look out for in 1981-82

HULL C.

Will be playing in Division Four for the first time. If they lose 11 matches, they will have lost 1,000 League games.

HARLEPOOL

If they concede 41 goals, they will have conceded 4,000 League goals.

IPSWICH T.

Their 49th League goal will be their 1,000th in Division One.

LIVERPOOL

Need 40 points for 3,000 in Division One.

LINCOLN C.

The 15th goal against them will be the 5,000th in League football.

MANCHESTER C.

Their 16th goal will be their 4,000th in Division One.

MANSFIELD T.

The 32nd goal against them next season will be the 3,000th.

NEWCASTLE U.

Their second goal of the season will be their 5,000th League goal.

OLDHAM A.

The 29th goal of the season will be their 4,000th League goal.

PRESTON

Their 31st goal of the season will be their 5,000th League goal.

PETERBOROUGH U.

Their 34th game will be their 1,000th in the League and they have now passed 1,000 points (1,036).

OXFORD U.

Their fifth goal next season will be their 1,000th in the League.

ROTHERHAM U.

Their 30th League match will be their 1,000th in Division Two.

ROCHDALE

Their 32nd goal will be their 1,000th in Division Four. Their sixth defeat will be their 1,000th in League football.

SWANSEA C.

Will be in the First Division for the first time.

SHEFFIELD U.

Their fifth goal will be the 5,000th in the League.

SHEFFIELD W.

Their 18th point will be their 1,000th in Division Two.

TORQUAY

Their 45th goal will be their 1,000th in Division Four.

WOLVERHAMPTON W.

The 14th goal against them will be the 5,000th conceded in League football.

YORK CITY

Their 22nd goal next season will be their 1,000th in Division Four, and their 31st goal will be their 3,000th League goal.



Peter Eastoe (dark shirt) scores for Everton against Coventry last season. Their ninth goal in 1981-82 will be their 5,000th in Division One.

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All letters must be exclusive to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Alan Whykes of Australia, who wins a SHOOT T-shirt. He writes:

THANKS, DOC...

In Australia the dust is just settling after Tommy Docherty's sudden departure, although such happenings have been part and parcel of his chequered career.

Nevertheless, The Doc's brutally straight-talking and forthright attitude has cleared many skeletons from the closet of Australian soccer, and his personal value alone has created far more interest than the wasted thousands of dollars splurged by our Soccer Federation's so-called marketing division.

Even though English football at domestic and even international level may be at a low ebb, I feel it still has and always will have something to offer to the rest of the world.

The proof of this is a Sydney Olympic team that has been transformed into the most entertaining in Australia, and thousands of Australians have been shown how enjoyable a good game can be.

As well, Australian youngsters are benefiting from dedicated British coaches raising the appalling standard of coaching here.



• The Doc's always done well on a short-term basis. Trouble is, he's never around to reap the long-term benefits!

... BUT REMEMBER THE FACTS

TOMMY DOCHERTY is "controversial, he's arrogant, he's outrageous" (SHOOT 9.2.80.) Wherever he has been The Doc has always been in the headlines.

Only the Doc would say that Terry Venables has "spent a fortune and achieved nothing" and is therefore a "flop".

Apart from winning one F.A. Cup (1977) and a Second Division Championship (1975) between 1972 and 1981, in those nine years Tommy Docherty also managed to spend £1,225,000 at Manchester United, £1,735,000 at Derby County and a further £1,725,000 at Q.P.R. (figures taken from the article "The Doc's Deals" in SHOOT 9.2.80).

Moreover, the Doc's character is placed in further doubt when he says the most he has ever spent on a player was £350,000 for Tony Currie.

The facts are that he signed Andy King of Everton for £400,000 and spent another £600,000 on Chelsea's Tommy Langley to bring them both to Q.P.R.

Mr Docherty does admittedly generate a great deal of enthusiasm, but he more than often lets himself down by what he says and does.

E. NEIL MARSHALL, SILLOTH.

• Love him or loathe him, you can't help talking about The Doc.

'COMPETENT' HURST

GEORGE HURST won "substantial compensation" for his dismissal from Chelsea. He felt that he'd done a competent job as manager and he didn't deserve the criticism about him after his last 20 games as manager, of which only three games were won, and in the other 17 matches, only one goal was scored by the Blues.



Mickey Thomas beats Everton's Garry Stanley... the Welsh winger will line-up for the Goodison Park club next season.

Tommy Cavanagh who has stayed loyal throughout.

Since then Joe Jordan has left the club, apparently because he was not being paid enough. And now Mickey Thomas, one of the best wingers in the country, as he has proved for Wales, has been swapped with Everton's John Gidman. Since when have Manchester United needed a new full-back?

The club I have supported my whole life is, I am afraid to say, losing my support very rapidly, and all because of one man, who has turned a fine institute of football into an unfamiliar and a very unhappy club.

DAMIAN LALLY, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.

• I think Atkinson will put the smile back at Old Trafford... even if what's happened so far has been unfortunate.

SOCCER REVOLUTION

IT might not be patriotic, popular or wise but I sincerely hope England fail to qualify for the World Cup in Spain 1982.

Qualification will justly result in abysmal failure with England probably finishing bottom of the group, for there is no way we are capable of living with the best of Europe and South America.

Alongside the patient, controlled, silky and stylish Brazilians we look like orange boxes with engines!

We need to revolutionise our whole approach from primary school to Old Trafford, there is too much emphasis on aggression, speed and winning with very little accommodation of subtlety and thought.

COLIN BRINTON, WIX.

• By your reasoning only three or four teams should bother to turn up in Spain.

NOT JUST FOOTBALL

AFTER recent widespread riots in England it can now be proved that the so-called disease football hooliganism is not the headache of the football authorities — it is a definite social problem of all society which happens to use our League football grounds as a theatre for its activities.

It is time to stop using the term "football" hooliganism and time for all of us to see violence at soccer matches as what it really is — a social problem concerning everybody and not just the football authorities.

JOSEPH DANIEL, HARTLEPOOL.

• I agree, but it would still be nice to see the football authorities doing even more to stamp out hooliganism at our grounds.

SEATS? NO THANKS!

I AM getting very tired of reading that football in Britain should become like the NASL.

Clubs such as Coventry are planning all seater grounds and Q.P.R. have gone one step further with Omnifit.

Soccer has always been the sport of the working class, standing on the terraces after working hard all week.

The Cockney factory workers, Liverpool dockers, Geordie miners, etc., will not tolerate £5 seats with a bag of popcorn and the echo of cheerleaders on a Saturday afternoon.

Soccer in the States is a flop — a middle-class craze that is already on the way out.

NEIL BRAMALL, HODDESDON.

• If having all-seater stadiums reduces violence and encourages families to come to soccer they can only be good for the game.

ASK THE EXPERT

Send your letters to: Ask the Expert, SHOOT! King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £2 for every letter published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. When writing, please state size: small, medium or large. While every letter is read, our Expert regrets he cannot reply to individual letters personally.

Liverpool held

I was born at half-past-two on the afternoon of Saturday, 2nd March, 1968 — just before Liverpool would have kicked off. Who did they play, and what was the result?

BEN COCKS, MERSEYSIDE.

• Your Mum did a bit better than the Reds that day, Ben — they could only manage a 1-1 draw at Wolves!

Still, it didn't end up a bad season as Liverpool finished third in the League, and reached the Quarter-Finals of the F.A. Cup, soon after.

Channon's first

When did Mike Channon make his full England debut, and when did he score his first goal for them?

TUWUT KOLE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

• He first played for England in the 1-1 Wembley draw with Yugoslavia on 11th October, 1972. Tuwut.

Channon's first goal came in the 5-0 win over Scotland at Hampden Park on 14th February 1973.

Nine scorers

Who scored the goals when Liverpool set up their record 11-0 win over Stromsgodset in the Cup-Winners' Cup in September, 1974?

DAFYDD JAMES, WALES.

• They shared out the spoils pretty nicely. Dafydd — in fact, only goalkeeper Ray Clemence and Brian Hall failed to get their names on the scoresheet!

That record 11 against the Norwegians came from Alec Lindsay (penalty), Phil Boersma (2), Phil Thompson (2), Steve Heighway, Peter Cormack, Emlyn Hughes, Ian Callaghan, Tommy Smith, and Ray Kennedy.

SHORT PASSES

• Record individual number of Football League hat-tricks in a single season is nine — by George Cammell, for Middlesbrough in Division Two, in 1926-27.

(CHAD JAMES, Canada)

• Andy Gray scored 54 goals in 11 League games for Aston Villa before joining Wolves in September, 1979.

(SIMON BROWN, Worcestershire)

• In the classic 1948 F.A. Cup Final Manchester United's four goals were scored by Jack Rowley (2), Stan Pearson, and Jimmy Anderson; Eddie Shimwell (penalty) and Stan Mortensen replying for Blackpool.

(PAUL MUSSEY, Hull)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIXTURES 1981-82

Read across for home games; down for aways; i.e. Aberdeen home Airdrie Nov 28 and Apr 24; away to Airdrie Sept 26 and Feb 20. And you can add the results of Premier Division matches in the spaces below the dates.

SCOTTISH PREMIER	ABERDEEN	AIRDRIE	CELTIC	DUNDEE	DUNDEE U	HIBS	MORTON	PARTICK	RANGERS	ST MIRREN
ABERDEEN	NOV 28 APR 24	SEPT 5 JAN 30	OCT 24 FEB 27	OCT 31 MAR 20	SEPT 19 JAN 9	OCT 3 FEB 6	NOV 14 APR 3	DEC 12 MAY 15	DEC 19 MAY 8	
AIRDRIE	SEPT 26 FEB 20	OCT 31 JAN 2	OCT 10 MAR 13	SEPT 19 JAN 30	NOV 14 APR 3	DEC 19 MAY 8	OCT 24 FEB 27	DEC 5 APR 17	SEPT 5 JAN 9	
CELTIC	NOV 7 MAR 27	AUG 29 MAR 20		DEC 5 APR 17	OCT 17 MAR 6	DEC 26 MAY 1	SEPT 12 JAN 16	SEPT 26 FEB 20	NOV 21 APR 10	DEC 12 MAY 15
DUNDEE	DEC 26 MAY 1	DEC 12 MAY 15	OCT 3 FEB 6		NOV 14 APR 3	OCT 31 MAR 20	NOV 28 APR 24	SEPT 5 JAN 9	OCT 17 MAR 6	SEPT 19 JAN 30
DUNDEE U	AUG 29 JAN 2	NOV 21 APR 10	DEC 19 MAY 8	SEPT 12 JAN 16		DEC 5 APR 17	NOV 7 MAR 27	OCT 10 MAR 13	SEPT 26 FEB 20	OCT 24 FEB 27
HIBS	NOV 21 APR 10	SEPT 12 JAN 16	OCT 24 FEB 27	AUG 29 JAN 2	OCT 3 FEB 6		OCT 10 MAR 13	DEC 19 MAY 8	NOV 7 MAR 27	NOV 28 APR 24
MORTON	DEC 5 APR 17	OCT 17 MAR 6	NOV 14 APR 3	SEPT 26 FEB 20	SEPT 5 JAN 9	DEC 12 MAY 15		SEPT 19 JAN 30	DEC 26 MAY 1	OCT 31 MAR 20
PARTICK	SEPT-12 JAN 16	DEC 26 MAY 1	NOV 28 APR 24	NOV 7 MAR 27	DEC 12 MAY 15	OCT 17 MAR 6	NOV 21 APR 10		AUG 29 JAN 2	OCT 3 FEB 6
RANGERS	OCT 10 MAR 13	OCT 3 FEB 6	SEPT 19 JAN 9	DEC 19 MAY 8	NOV 28 APR 24	SEPT 5 JAN 30	OCT 24 FEB 27	OCT 31 MAR 20		NOV 14 APR 3
ST MIRREN	OCT 17 MAR 6	NOV 7 MAR 27	OCT 10 MAR 13	NOV 21 APR 10	DEC 26 MAY 1	SEPT 26 FEB 20	AUG 29 JAN 2	DEC 5 APR 17	SEPT 12 JAN 16	



East Stirling's Alex Grant clears from Albert Kidd of Motherwell.



St Mirren (stripes) clash with Celtic at home on October 10 and March 13.



FIRST DIVISION		AYR	CLYDEBANK	DUMBARTON	DUNFERMLINE	E. STIRLING	FALKIRK	HAMILTON	HEARTS	KILMARNOCK	MOTHERWELL	QUEEN OF SOUTH	QUEEN'S PARK	RAITH	ST. JOHNSTONE
AYR		FEB 6	SEPT 8	OCT 24	OCT 17 MAR 27	NOV 14 APR 10	SEPT 5 APR 24	SEPT 23 FEB 20	JAN 2	JAN 9 MAR 13	DEC 19 MAY 8	SEPT 26	DEC 5	SEPT 16	
CLYDEBANK		OCT 31 MAY 15		JAN 2	SEPT 16 MAY 1	JAN 30	SEPT 26 FEB 27	SEPT 23	DEC 19 MAR 27	SEPT 8	OCT 17	DEC 5 MAR 20	NOV 14 APR 17	JAN 9	SEPT 5
DUMBARTON		DEC 26 MAR 6	SEPT 12 MAR 13		JAN 16	AUG 29	FEB 6 MAY 8	OCT 10	NOV 28	OCT 24 APR 24	SEPT 19	NOV 7 APR 17	DEC 12	NOV 21 APR 3	OCT 3 FEB 20
DUNFERMLINE		JAN 30 APR 3	NOV 21	OCT 17 MAR 20		NOV 7 MAY 15	SEPT 23	DEC 19 FEB 27	AUG 29 APR 24	DEC 5	SEPT 26	SEPT 12	JAN 9	JAN 2	OCT 31 APR 17
E. STIRLING		JAN 16	OCT 24 APR 10	NOV 14 FEB 27	SEPT 5		SEPT 8	DEC 26 MAY 8	FEB 6	SEPT 26 MAY 1	DEC 5 APR 3	SEPT 23	SEPT 16	DEC 19 MAR 20	OCT 10
FALKIRK		AUG 29	NOV 28	OCT 31	DEC 12 MAR 13	JAN 2 FEB 20		OCT 3	SEPT 12 MAY 6	JAN 9	NOV 21 APR 17	OCT 17	JAN 30 MAY 15	NOV 7	SEPT 19 MAY 27
HAMILTON		NOV 7	DEC 12 FEB 20	JAN 9 MAY 18	SEPT 19	SEPT 12	DEC 5 MAY 1		NOV 21 APR 10	OCT 17	JAN 2	SEPT 26	OCT 31 APR 3	AUG 29	JAN 30 MAY 13
HEARTS		DEC 12	SEPT 19	SEPT 26 MAY 1	NOV 14	OCT 31 APR 17	DEC 26	SEPT 16		SEPT 5	JAN 30 MAY 15	JAN 9	DEC 5 MAR 20	OCT 17 FEB 27	SEPT 8 APR 3
KILMARNOCK		SEPT 12 FEB 27	DEC 26 APR 3	JAN 30	OCT 3 MAR 6	NOV 28	OCT 10 MAR 20	JAN 16 APR 17	NOV 7 MAY 8		AUG 29	NOV 21 MAY 15	SEPT 19	OCT 31	DEC 12
MOTHERWELL		OCT 10	JAN 16 APR 24	DEC 19 APR 10	NOV 28 MAY 8	OCT 3	SEPT 16	SEPT 8 MAR 20	OCT 24	NOV 14 MAR 27		FEB 6	SEPT 5 FEB 27	SEPT 23	DEC 26
QUEEN OF SOUTH		SEPT 19	OCT 3	SEPT 5	DEC 26 FEB 20	DEC 12 MAR 6	JAN 16 APR 3	NOV 28 MAR 27	OCT 10 MAR 13	SEPT 16	OCT 31 MAY 1		SEPT 8 APR 24	JAN 30	NOV 14
QUEEN'S PARK		NOV 28 APR 17	AUG 29	SEPT 23 MAR 27	OCT 10 APR 10	NOV 21 MAR 13	OCT 24	FEB 6	OCT 3	DEC 19 FEB 20	NOV 7	JAN 2		SEPT 12 MAY 8	JAN 16 MAY 1
RAITH		OCT 3 MAY 1	OCT 10	SEPT 16	SEPT 8 MAR 27	SEPT 19	SEPT 5	NOV 14 MAR 6	JAN 16	FEB 6 MAR 13	DEC 12 FEB 20	OCT 24 APR 10	DEC 26		NOV 28 MAY 15
ST. JOHNSTONE		NOV 21 MAR 20	NOV 7 MAY 8	DEC 5	FEB 6	JAN 9 APR 24	DEC 19	OCT 24	JAN 2	SEPT 23 APR 10	SEPT 12 MAR 6	AUG 29 FEB 27	OCT 17	SEPT 26	

SECOND DIVISION		ALBION	ALLOA	ARBROATH	BERWICK	BRECHIN	CLYDE	COWDENBEATH	EAST FIFE	FORFAR	MEADOWBANK	MONTROSE	STENHOUSEMUIR	STIRLING	STRANRAER
ALBION		OCT 31 MAR 20	SEPT 23	OCT 3	JAN 23 APR 17	FEB 6 MAY 1	AUG 29	DEC 26	OCT 17	JAN 16	NOV 7 FEB 27	NOV 21 MAY 15	NOV 28 APR 10	SEPT 12	
ALLOA		FEB 13		OCT 3 FEB 20	OCT 10 MAR 6	OCT 24	DEC 26 MAR 27	NOV 21 MAY 8	JAN 30	AUG 29	NOV 28 APR 10	JAN 16	SEPT 12 MAY 1	NOV 7	SEPT 23 MAY 1
ARBROATH		DEC 19 APR 24	DEC 5		OCT 24	SEPT 19	OCT 17 APR 10	SEPT 12 FEB 27	FEB 13 MAY 1	JAN 2	AUG 29 MAR 27	NOV 21 MAR 13	SEPT 26	JAN 23	NOV 7
BERWICK		DEC 5 MAR 13	JAN 23	FEB 6 APR 3		OCT 17	OCT 31	SEPT 26	SEPT 23 MAR 27	NOV 7 MAY 8	SEPT 12 FEB 27	AUG 29	NOV 21 APR 17	JAN 16	APR 17
BRECHIN		OCT 10	FEB 6 MAR 13	DEC 26 MAY 8	JAN 30 MAY 1		SEPT 23	OCT 31	OCT 3 APR 10	NOV 21	NOV 7	SEPT 12 FEB 27	JAN 16 MAR 27	AUG 29	NOV 28 FEB 27
CLYDE		OCT 24	SEPT 19	JAN 30	FEB 13 MAR 20	DEC 19 APR 3		NOV 7 APR 17	OCT 10	SEPT 12	OCT 3	NOV 28	AUG 29	JAN 2	NOV 21 MAY 8
COWDENBEATH		NOV 14 FEB 20	SEPT 16	JAN 16	NOV 28 APR 10	FEB 13 MAY 15	SEPT 5		SEPT 8 MAR 6	OCT 24 MAR 13	JAN 30	OCT 3 MAR 27	SEPT 23	DEC 26 MAY 1	OCT 10
EAST FIFE		SEPT 19 MAY 8	OCT 17 APR 3	OCT 31	DEC 19	DEC 5	JAN 23 APR 24	JAN 2		SEPT 26 FEB 27	NOV 7 MAR 13	FEB 6	NOV 7 APR 17	SEPT 12 MAR 20	AUG 29
FORFAR		JAN 30	NOV 14 MAY 15	NOV 14	SEPT 5	SEPT 16	JAN 16 FEB 20	FEB 6	NOV 28		OCT 10	DEC 26 MAY 1	OCT 31	SEPT 23	OCT 3 MAR 20
MEADOWBANK		SEPT 8 MAR 6	SEPT 26	NOV 14	JAN 2	SEPT 5 FEB 20	DEC 5 MAY 15	OCT 17 MAR 20	SEPT 16	JAN 23 APR 17		SEPT 23	FEB 6	OCT 31 MAY 8	DEC 26 APR 3
MONTROSE		SEPT 5	SEPT 8 APR 17	SEPT 16	NOV 14	JAN 2	SEPT 26 MAR 20	DEC 5 MAY 6	OCT 24 MAY 15	SEPT 19	DEC 19 APR 24		JAN 23	OCT 17 APR 3	FEB 13
STENHOUSEMUIR		SEPT 16	JAN 2 FEB 27	NOV 28 MAR 20	SEPT 19	SEPT 8	NOV 14	DEC 19 APR 3	SEPT 5	FEB 13 APR 10	OCT 24 MAY 1	OCT 10 MAY 8		OCT 3	JAN 30
STIRLING		SEPT 26	SEPT 5 APR 24	OCT 10 APR 17	SEPT 16	NOV 14	SEPT 8	SEPT 19	JAN 16	DEC 19 MAR 27	FEB 13	JAN 30	SEPT 12 MAR 6	OCT 24 MAY 13	
STRANRAER		DEC 2 MAR 27	DEC 19	SEPT 5 MAY 15	SEPT 8	SEPT 26	SEPT 16	JAN 23 APR 24	NOV 14 FEB 20	DEC 5	SEPT 19	OCT 31 APR 10	OCT 17	FEB 6	



Ian Stewart hopes to lead Arbroath out of the Scottish Second Division this season.



Clyde manager David McWilliams.

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HANSEN'S DOUBT ABOUT JORDAN

GOLF has been Alan Hansen's main preoccupation during the close season — but he couldn't wait to get back to a more hectic form of exercise.

"I'm really eager for the football season to start," says Liverpool's Scottish international defender. "And I'm sure that the morale of the team will be high for the kick-off against Wolves."

With European and League Cup successes under their belt at the end of last season, it's natural to assume Liverpool will be in good heart for the beginning of the 1981-82 campaign. And Hansen gives his own reasons for optimism at Anfield.

"Playing under the handicap of having five or six first team players injured and out of action made it difficult for us, and it's a tribute to the strength of our playing pool that we came through it all and ended up by winning two trophies. So we have confidence."

Biggest Thrill

Hansen, who was transferred from Partick Thistle to Liverpool in May, 1977, for £100,000, took over from Emlyn Hughes in the Merseysiders' defence. And one year after moving to Anfield, Alan experienced the biggest thrill of his career to date.

"Liverpool's win over Bruges at Wembley in the 1978 European Cup Final gave me a memory I will always treasure. For me, even our success in Paris this year didn't quite equal it."

As a centre-half, Hansen is the ball-playing type who retains his composure in the toughest situations. In fact, his refusal to panic has at time caused palpitations among Liverpool fans.

But he says: "When a big kick is called for to relieve pressure on us at the back, I'll give it. As far as possible, though I deal with each situa-



tion as the need arises — and if I decide to pass my way out of trouble, I try to make sure that the ball finds the man in the right shirt."

Hansen's undoubted skill has not only made him a key-man at Anfield and gained him international recognition — it gives him the qualifications to speak with authority on soccer as it is played in Britain and abroad.

"I settled in quickly at Liverpool when I came down from Scotland, where I didn't find the game any more skilful than it is in England. But there are differences between soccer in this country and on the Continent.

"Take Joe Jordan. I rate Joe as a very difficult centre-forward to come up against. He is robust, effective in the air, and on the ground a much better player than many people give him credit for.

"But in a Continental side, with their calculated technique, Joe may not be able to operate in his normal way because fewer long balls would be hit to him. I'll be interested to see how he does in Italy."

In Hansen's Liverpool role, he is the partner of another ball-playing centre-half, Phil Thompson, and at club level, Alan has no other ambitions other than to continue in his present capacity.

He says: "I enjoy my place in the line-up alongside Phil and we've built up a good understanding. As far as I'm concerned I just want to hold on to my first team place and satisfy myself that I'm doing a worthwhile job."

"I'm confident we can make a strong bid for the League Championship again. Last season was a bit of a disappointment in that respect, and we're determined it won't be quite so easy for the other teams this time."

LIVERPOOL, a splendidly disciplined side which has been inclined to make haste slowly over the years — insisting that the League Championship is more a marathon than a sprint — could get away to a smarter, more aggressive start this coming season.

Manager Bob Paisley, whose tremendous knowledge of the game has been rewarded with him becoming Britain's most honoured manager, recalls that last season — one of those in which his lads did not win the title — the Anfield club experienced an alarming crop of injuries.

'Injured'

"We had 12 players out for a month or more with injuries," he reflects. "Eight of these were first team players and four were men who would normally have come in for injured first teamers.

"This meant we had to dig down into what you might term our third layer of players."

The connection between the injuries and Liverpool's more 'speedy' start this coming season is that by the time the injury glut arose, Liverpool, with more favourable early season results, could have had points in the bank.

The point has not been lost on Paisley. "Perhaps we, the staff, were at fault to some degree, perhaps some of the players were a little flushed with success and

PAISLEY PUTS THE BITE BACK IN LIVERPOOL

lacked that bite you must have.

"Whatever the reason we are working on it, to ensure there is no repetition. There were games when we tried to pace ourselves too much early on. I still do not alter my belief that taking the title is a marathon but perhaps slight adjustments need to be made.



"If so we will make them."

One change that will not be made, thank goodness, is in the managerial lead at the home of the European Champions. Bob Paisley will be around for some time yet.

In his seven years in charge Bob has collected 14 major trophies, over all his years at Anfield has been involved in numerous other honours, not to mention all those he collected way back as a talented wing-half with the famous Bishop Auckland amateur side.

It was, he admits "back home in the North-East that one got the determination to succeed, to carry on to the end of the road." It is a dedication that has been with him ever since.

He smiles: "If you are going to compete you may as well try and win. If you lose the appetite to do so that is the time to go. All the honours I've won in the past are just that, in the past. It's the future that matters, so you can see that the appetite is still there."

LEFT: Alan Kennedy scores the winner in the European Cup Final.
RIGHT: Paisley proudly displays the coveted trophy.





McCLUSKEY HELPS PLAYER WHO TOOK HIS PLACE

BEFORE a titanic tussle against Rangers at Parkhead last season George McCluskey took whizz kid Charlie Nicholas aside to pass on some hints and advice...

There's nothing strange about that — until you consider Nicholas had taken McCluskey's place in the first team and George had to be content with a berth on the substitutes' bench!

"I enjoy healthy rivalry," says McCluskey, the man who scored Celtic's dramatic Scottish Cup winning goal against Rangers two seasons ago.

"Charlie and Frank McGarvey have certainly got a good thing going and I wish them the best of luck, but I want to get back into the first team.

"I began my career as a winger and I may play again in this position, but I think I am better suited to a role in the middle of the front line."

Nicholas is swift to thank McCluskey for all the help he has given him. "He has passed on some invaluable hints," says the attack leader. "I remember that game against Rangers at Parkhead last season.

"I had played at Ibrox a few months before and that was my biggest disappointment in soccer. I never got started and I was eventually taken off in the second-half as we lost 3-0.

"It wasn't an enjoyable experience, I can tell you! I had looked forward so much to the game, but when it arrived I just didn't play at all.

"George took me aside just before the start of the game at Parkhead. He had a quick word in my ear and, thankfully, everything turned out right in the end when I scored two goals and we won 3-1.

"Revenge was certainly sweet

that afternoon. George is like that, though. He thinks about the team rather than the individual."

However, McCluskey, 23, married with one daughter, must now look to his future and he says: "I don't really want to go through another season like the last one.

"I was certainly delighted when the team won the Premier Division Championship, but I was in and out of the side and eventually missed the last six games of the team because of torn knee ligaments which I picked up against Dundee United in our Scottish Cup Semi-Final at Hampden.

"I scored 13 goals, but, of course Charlie and Frank netted over 50 between them and that is some going, isn't it?

"When I came into the side nearing the end of the term I scored a few goals and was quite happy with my form, but then came the injury against United and that ruined everything.

Security

"Looking to the future, I want first team football and security for my family. If I'm out of the team at the start of the season I'll probably have a chat with manager Billy McNeill about the situation."

McCluskey, a finely talented, gifted goalscorer, hasn't made the progress that was widely tipped for him when he first broke into the first team as a teenager.

There is little doubt that McCluskey — linked with Manchester United two years ago — has the ability to score goals against the best organised defences. His skills are obvious, but he hasn't had the best of luck with injuries.

The new season will be a huge test for George McCluskey. The shoot-out among Frank McGarvey, Charlie Nicholas and McCluskey for those two striking positions will be intriguing and exciting.

very capable players.

"I think we showed our ability when we drew 1-1 with Celtic at Parkhead in their second last League game. "They had beaten Dundee United 3-2 in midweek at Tannadice to clinch the Premier Division Championship and they wanted to make it a gala day for their fans at Parkhead against us. But we closed them down and were well worth our point."

"With a little bit of luck we could well have won that game. They say that luck evens itself out. If that's the case then we should have no bother winning promotion next season."

"The First Division is a highly competitive League and we will have to fight all the way for what we get. But we are in the right mood to make up for last season's disappointment."

Kilmarnock certainly deserve a smile rather than a scowl from Dame Fortune.

JIM CLUNIE spent last close season nurturing dreams of leading St. Mirren into Europe via the U.E.F.A. Cup and the possibility of claiming another prize to place alongside the Anglo-Scottish Cup in the Love Street trophy room.

This time around things are a bit different... Clunie only has thoughts of how to get an ailing Kilmarnock team out of the First Division and back into the Premier Division!

Clunie, of course, was at the centre of controversy when he was dramatically sacked as manager of St. Mirren during the season and he was out of work for a couple of months until the Kilmarnock job fell vacant with Davie Sneddon getting the axe.

"I said when I took over that we needed a miracle to stay in the Top Ten," says Clunie. "Unfortunately,

Kilmarnock pay the penalty

that miracle didn't occur and we must now put everything behind us and start afresh.

"We've got to have more luck than last season. Did you know Kilmarnock were the only club in the Premier Division not to be awarded one single penalty-kick throughout the term?

"Amazing, isn't it? We must have been right at the end of the queue when the good fortune was being handed out. Aberdeen, on the other hand, were awarded THIRTEEN penalty kicks.

"A couple of them going our way might have changed things a bit; but it was not to be. Now we must look to the future and aim for promotion."

One man solidly behind Kilmarnock's bid to race back into the

Top Ten is goalkeeper Alan McCulloch, who was number three in the Scottish international reckoning only a year ago.

He has signed a new long term contract with the Rugby Park club and says: "I'm perfectly happy here. The club has always been good to me and I have no intention of deserting a sinking ship."

Temporary

"I believe our stay in the First will only be temporary. We had some encouraging results near the end of last season when we played a bit more to form."

"It was just a pity we did not display the same form throughout the season. Our consistency let us down, although we have some

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ESCAPE TO VICTORY

THE premiere of the much publicised film "Escape to Victory" will be on September 3rd, and the World War II adventure film set against a soccer backdrop has not only attracted star players to the cinema, but to perform in the action themselves. Our team line up reads: BACK ROW (left to right) Russell Osman, Paul Van Himst (Belgium), Mike Summerbee, Sylvester Stallone, John Wark, Kaziu Deyna (Poland) and Soren Lindsted (Denmark). FRONT ROW: Hallvar Thorsen (Denmark), Ossie Ardiles, Michael Caine, Pele, Bobby Moore and Co Prins (Holland).



HUGH ATKINSON

Wolves



BOYER'S BACK

MANCHESTER City, a goalmaker and a scorer, Phil Boyer is ready for action again next season. And the signs of relief and excitement can be heard all around Maine Road.

Last May the rejuvenated City side were at Wembley in the FA Cup Final, losing to Spurs, only after a magnificent replay. And there were many who insisted that had Boyer been out there for City, the Northern club would have won the trophy at the first attempt.

It was, however, never to be. Phil, one of the game's really genuine characters, had suffered a major injury set-back in, ironically, an earlier Cup game, a Fourth Round tie against Norwich.

Further irony was added by the fact that the injury ruptured lateral ligaments of the knee—and came in a collision with Norwich defender Kevin Bond, son of Manchester City manager John Bond.

It was an utter and complete accident, insists Phil. "It could just as easily have happened to Kevin as to me." But it did happen to Boyer and could have had tragic results.

For the player admits that the injury left him with a warning from the medical men that he had only a 50-50 chance of playing again. But the operation that followed the injury was eventually to prove successful.

Says Phil: "I tried to put all fears behind me and concentrate on getting back into the game, although he initially two months, when I was not able to do much about it, was the time when it was easy to get a bit depressed."

"Even more recently, when the specialists saw

me in training and said I'd come back, there was still a little niggle of wondering, but not any more."

I've grunted day in, day out, and I owe a terrific lot to Roy Bailey, the physio at Maine Road, and all the work has now paid off."

So much so that before taking a short holiday, Phil's daily dose of 'punishment' was along the lines of:

"Two weight circuits, a four-mile run, two circuits of the City ground and around two dozen chases up and down the steep City main stand steps—some of them first on one leg then the other."

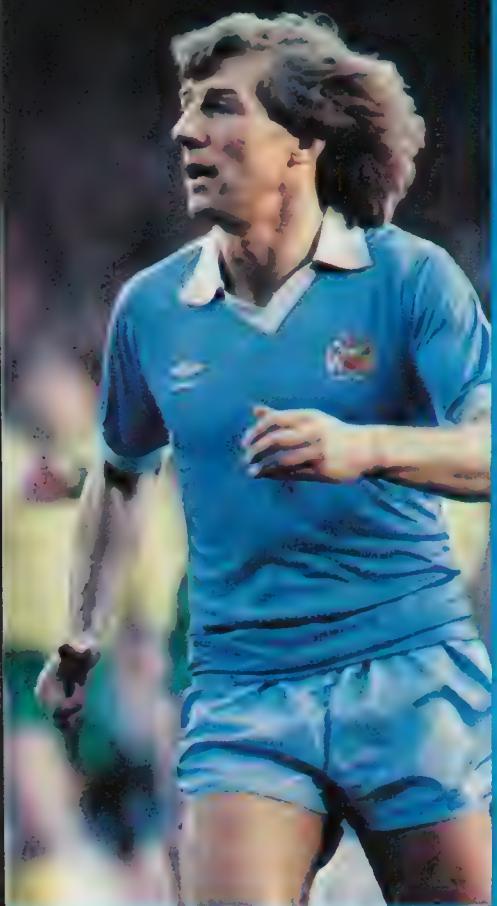
Eagerly

After that short holiday break, Phil is back at the club continuing his keep-fit routines and eagerly awaiting pre-season games.

"I feel 100 per cent and am really confident I can go out there and play my part next season," he says, "but first I must get match fit and fight for my place back in the side."

He did that, not only fight but win. Way back in his early days at York City he showed his developing skills and dedication was ever present. It continued at Bournemouth, Norwich and Southampton.

Manchester City are now set to benefit as well. So far they have seen him in only ten games before that injury cut him down. They will see much more of him in the seasons to come.



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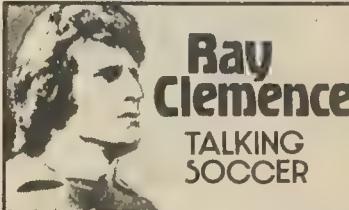
IN my time at Liverpool I've had the privilege of playing in two great sides, and people are always asking me to make a comparison between them.

Basically, the first side was the one that did the unique double of UEFA Cup and Championship in 1973, and the second the current one which has helped the club to establish a British record of three European Cup wins.

All I'll ever say is they were different but had one big thing in common: every player was a hard worker. The hallmark of a typical Liverpool Red is that he'll run non-stop from first whistle to last. This probably shortens his actual playing life, but he'll end up with more trophies than a counterpart with another club.

I have an extra-special feeling for the early 70's side because it brought me my first major success in the game.

My distinction of being the sole surviving member at Anfield is likely to end soon, when I'll be off to join a new club.



Very few of that "Old Brigade" are now playing top class football, but most are still involved with the game in some respect.

Chris Lawler, my right-back, is now in Norway coaching a Third Division side there. On his way home for a holiday during the close season he called on me at the coaching centre in Oslo, where I, Dave Johnson and Phil Thompson, were giving the benefit of our experience to eager youngsters. Chris looked as fit and youthful as ever, and is still a man of few words.

Wonderful

His partner at left full-back, Alec Lindsay, on the other hand, had a wonderful, dry sense of humour. Kevin Keegan has always maintained that Alec was the best left-back he's ever played with.

After trying his hand as a scrap metal merchant and running a fish and chip shop, he's now mine host at a pub and plays for its team.

Centre-half Larry Lloyd, my former room mate, was an old-fashioned centre-half, good in the air, a bit slow on the turn with a habit of "introducing" himself to the opposing centre-half early on in

a game very forcibly to show he was a force to be reckoned with.

Unfortunately, Larry sustained an injury in mid-1974 and couldn't regain his place due to the fact that Emlyn Hughes and Phil Thompson had formed a very effective partnership.

Larry, not renowned for his patience, made it clear he wasn't going to waste his time in the reserves, and left for Coventry. Then he moved to Forest where he played a vital part in helping the club to so much success.

'The first great team I played in'



Now he's taken a new step in his career, becoming player-manager at Wigan, where I'm sure he'll make his mark.

Larry was hard, but the man who played alongside him, Tommy Smith, was harder. Christened 'The Iron Man', Tommy was rumoured to practise by tackling lampposts in the street!

Probably his greatest performance was in the 1977 European Cup Final in Rome when he headed a goal that put us back into the lead at a moment when Borussia Moenchengladbach were threatening to take command.

After a spell at Swansea under John Toshack, his former teammate, Tommy returned to Anfield to handle the "A" and "B" teams, became frustrated, and decided to concentrate on his businesses: a nightclub, a pub and a steak house.

The final member of the back-four, Emlyn Hughes, made up for any lack of skill with his enthusiasm, non-stop running and his ability to score goals from outside the area. He left us to join Wolves, where he picked up the only major honour, a League Cup winner's medal, that had eluded him at Liverpool.

Now he's player-manager at

there, but had trouble with getting a work permit, and is now preparing to open a modernised pub in Rainford.

Another classy mid-fielder was Peter Cormack, always ready with a laugh and a joke to help ease dressing-room tension, and deadly dangerous at the far post. After a spell at Bristol City, Peter returned to Scotland, where he's now managing Partick Thistle.

Another joker in the Anfield pack was Brian Hall, who like team-mate Steve Heighway was university educated. A very "busy" player, whose career high-spot was probably scor-



Larry Lloyd, Tommy Smith, Chris Lawler and Peter Cormack display the UEFA Cup and the Championship trophy, won in 1973.

ing a winning goal in an F.A. Cup Semi-Final at Old Trafford. He now turns out for Northwich Victoria in the Northern Premier League and teaches at a school.

My first introduction to Steve Heighway was in a testimonial game. Not knowing that such games are never taken seriously, he certainly made us all take notice.

Currently Steve is with Minnesota Kicks in the U.S.A.

Double-act

Last but by no means least are Kevin Keegan and John Toshack, who will always live in my mind as one of the finest soccer double-acts ever seen.

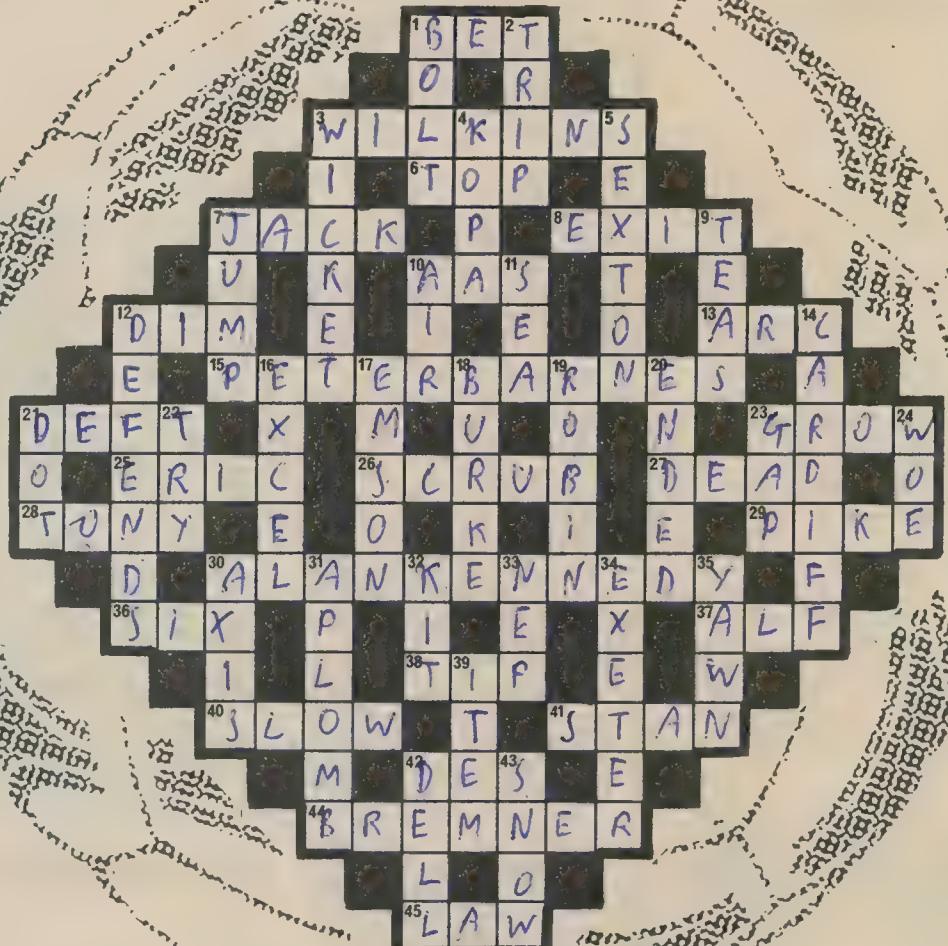
While Tosh has masterminded Swansea's rise from the Fourth to the First, Kevin has established himself as an international superstar with Southampton and England.

As for our then-manager, Bill Shankly, he's still in great demand for his experience, and is welcome in any boardroom in the country.

Stand by next week for the latest developments in my career!

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature, which appears to be 'Ray Clemence'.

ON THE BALL CROSSWORD



With the holidays upon us, SHOOT include a special jumbo-sized On The Ball Crossword for you to tackle in your leisure time. The answers are on the opposite page.

→ TIP

TOP

ACROSS:

- (1) Wager. (3)
- (2) Ray -----, Manchester United mid-field player. (7)
- (3) Scun-hi-fie United. (3)
- (4) One of the famous Charlton brothers. (4)
- (5) Way out. (4)
- (6) Surname of Nottingham Forest player. (3)
- (7) Lacking illumination. (3)
- (8) If Rotherham, Burnley & Stoke give "OUT"; what do Barnsley, Brighton & Scunthorpe give? (3)
- (9) England international winger whose debut was against Italy (5 & 6)
- (10) Dextrous or adroit. (4)
- (11) Develop or increase. (4)
- (12) Gates, Ipswich Town striker. (4)
- (13) Rub hard with a brush. (5)
- (14) Word used to describe a motion-less or out-of-play ball. (4)
- (15) Galvin, Spurs striker. (4)
- (16) Geoff ---, West Ham midfield player. (4)
- (17) Scored in the 1981 European Cup Final. (4 & 7)
- (18) The goal area extends into the field of play --- yards from the goal-line. (3)
- (19) Sir --- Ramsey, former England

DOWN -

boss. (3)

(26) Ever-on play at Good-son -ark. (3)

(40) Lacking pace. (4)

(44) --- Cummins, Sunderland midfield player. (4)

(48) Bremner, Aston Villa midfield player. (3)

(49) Billy ----, Doncaster manager. (7)

(45) Denis --- who was transferred from Manchester United to Turin in 1962 for a then record of £116,000. (3)

DOWN:—

(1) ---on play at Burnden Park. (4)

(2) Stumble. (4)

(3) Probably cricket's equivalent of the goal! (6)

(4) Raymond ---, famous French centre-forward who was European Footballer of the Year in 1958. (4)

(5) Dave ----, former manager of Manchester United. (6)

(7) Leap. (4)

(8) Refreshments supplied by Teasdale of Wolves! (4)

(10) drie, Scottish club from Broomfield Park. (3)

(11) Swan---, play at Vetch Field. (3)

(12) Protects. (7)

(14) City. Club found in 1889 as River Side F.C. (7)

(19) Surpass or outdo previous form. (5)

(47) Paul ----, Derby County striker. (5)

(48) Steve ----, Queens Park Rangers striker. (5)

(49) Bird which is associated by nickname with a number of clubs (Bristol City & Wrexham for example). (5)

(50) Finished. (5)

(51) If Cambridge gives "CAD"; what does Doncaster give? (3) **DOT**

(52) Attempt (3)

(53) Space through which to attack. (3)

(54) Bitter sadness. (3)

(55) A cross is turned about! (4)

(56) Use six letters found in BROOMFIELD PARK (see Clue 10) to make a word meaning "self-possession". (8)

(57) Soccer equipment for instance. (3)

(58) Name of stadium in Budapest where Engand triumphed on June 6th. (3)

(59) --- City are nicknamed "The Gremlins". (6)

(73) Expression of boredom or tiredness. (4)

(78) One particular piece of 32 Down, for example. (4)

(82) The ---, ground of Saints. (4)

(83) Weather conditions which can cause postponements. (4)

COMMON DENOMINATOR

Alan Taylor, Kevin Keegan and Ricky Villa share a goalscoring distinction which they accomplished in Wembley Cup Finals. What is it? **TWO GOALS**



TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Mark Proctor was recently transferred from Newcastle United to Nottingham Forest. **F**

2. Hamilton Academicals will play in the Scottish First Division during the 1981-82 season. **T**

3. Orient have never played in the First Division. **F**

4. Andy McCulloch plays as a striker for Second Division Sheffield Wednesday. **T**

5. Alan Biley, Everton's recent signing from Derby County, made his League debut while playing for Cambridge United.

GROUNDS

1. Fellows Park is the home ground of Third Division Plymouth Argyle, Chesterfield or Walsall? **WALSALL**

2. Where do Northern Ireland play their home internationals? **WINDSOR PARK, BELFAST**

3. Which Scottish club plays at Shield Park? **BERWICK RANGERS**

4. Are F.A. Cup Semi-Finals played at Bramall Lane or Hillsborough, Sheffield. **HILLSBOROUGH**

5. Where do (a) Queen of the South, (b) Clyde and (c) Airdrie play? **PALMERTON, SHAWFIELD, BROOMFIELD**

PUMA COMPETITION RESULT

IN our Puma competition, in June 27th issue readers were invited to answer three football questions. The correct answers were:

1 — Leicester City; 2 — November, 1971;

3 — Morton.

Having considered all entries, the judges chose the entry submitted by Julian Rapkins, Higham, as being the neatest correct, with age taken into account. Julian wins a pair of Puma Royal football boots, a tracksuit and a holdall.

Second prize, of the tracksuit and holdall, was awarded to Mark Butcher, Weymouth. Matthew Pickles, Sheffield, wins third prize of a Puma holdall.

There were also 25 runners-up who each received a Puma shoe bag, they are:

Neil Ashton, Finchampstead. Paul Beetham, Braunton. Duncan Booker, Doncaster. Ian Cronshaw, Accrington. Mark Dean, Preston. James Docherty, Birmingham. Robert Dodds, Argyll. Ian Ellis, Shrewsbury. Mark Foward, Welwyn Garden City. Jeffrey Fuller, London, SE3. Antony Haywood, Worksop. Steven Luckett, Canterbury. Graeme MacNair, Dun-donald. Paul Matts, East Goscote. John McKay, Manchester. Louise Meredith, Swansea. Joseph Reid, London E16. Adrian Shand, Bilstion. Trevor Smith, Houghton-le-Spring. Geoffrey Solley, London, S.W.2. Michael Sparshott, Southampton. Richard Swan, Worcester. Iain Teaz, Glasgow. Robert Williams, Llanelli. Darren Woodfield, Coventry.



PAST STARS

1. Bobby Moore (above), England's most capped player, made his 108th and final appearance against which country in November, 1973?



2. West Brom manager Ronnie Allen is a former player at The Hawthorns. Did he appear for the club in the 1954 F.A. Cup Final against Preston North End?

3. Jock Wallace, Leicester City manager, played League football in England and Scotland. Was he a goalkeeper, defender or forward?

4. Did Jimmy Armfield (Blackpool), Ron Henry (Spurs) or George Cohen (Fulham) play right-back for England in the 1966 World Cup Final triumph against West Germany?

5. Johnny Giles became a household name as a member of the great Leeds United teams during the 1970's. Which club did he begin his League career with?

ODD SPOT

Two former Football League stars called Best met in North American Soccer League action recently (right). Can you (a) name them and (b) the English First Division clubs they played for?

PRESENT STARS

1. Andy Blair (left) was recently transferred from Coventry City to which First Division club?

2. Did Peter Eastoe, Imre Varadi or Bob Latchford (now Swansea) finish last season as Everton's top goalscorer?

3. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of one of the Scottish Premier Division's top captains and his club... LLRMEI (EEENBDAR).

4. Derek Spence's goals helped which club to promotion last season as Champions?

5. A full-back who began his League career with Aston Villa before being transferred to Coventry City. He was on the move again last season when he joined a club deep in relegation trouble and helped them to a respectable position. He also tasted some Cup success in 1980-81. Can you identify him?

DEFENDERS

1. Is it true that the Ipswich Town defensive pair of Terry Butcher and Russell Osman made their first appearance at Wembley for England against Spain in a friendly?

2. Manchester United swapped Mickey Thomas plus a cash adjustment for a full-back... can you name him?

3. Do you know the Christian names of (a) — Miller (Tottenham), (b) — Evans (Aston Villa) and (c) — Hazell (Queens Park Rangers)?

4. Did Willie Young begin his career in Scotland with Aberdeen, Dundee or St Mirren?



ANSWERS

ODD SPOT: George and Clyde and Aberdeen, George and Clyde and Aberdeen, they played for Manchester United

DEFENDERS: 1. Yes. 2. John Gidman 3. (a) Paul. (b) Alan. (c) Bob. 4.

PRESENT STARS: 1. Walsall. 2. Windsor Park. 3. Peter Eastoe. 4. Bob Latchford. 5. Imre Varadi. 6. Alan Kennedy. 7. John Gidman. 8. Steve McManaman. 9. Steve McManaman. 10. Steve McManaman. 11. Steve McManaman. 12. Steve McManaman. 13. Steve McManaman. 14. Steve McManaman. 15. Steve McManaman. 16. Steve McManaman. 17. Steve McManaman. 18. Steve McManaman. 19. Steve McManaman. 20. Steve McManaman. 21. Steve McManaman. 22. Steve McManaman. 23. Steve McManaman. 24. Steve McManaman. 25. Steve McManaman. 26. Steve McManaman. 27. Steve McManaman. 28. Steve McManaman. 29. Steve McManaman. 30. Steve McManaman. 31. Steve McManaman. 32. Steve McManaman. 33. Steve McManaman. 34. Steve McManaman. 35. Steve McManaman. 36. Steve McManaman. 37. Steve McManaman. 38. Steve McManaman. 39. Steve McManaman. 40. Steve McManaman. 41. Steve McManaman. 42. Steve McManaman. 43. Steve McManaman. 44. Steve McManaman. 45. Steve McManaman.

TRUE OR FALSE: 1. False — he was transferred from Middleborough. 2. True — they have a true. 3. True — he was transferred from Middleborough. 4. True — they have a true. 5. True — they have a true.

PAST STARS: 1. Aston Villa. 2. Bobby Charlton. 3. Willie Miller (Aberdeen). 4. George and Clyde and Aberdeen. 5. Terry Butcher and Russell Osman. 6. John Gidman. 7. Alan Evans. 8. Paul. 9. Bob. 10. Alan. 11. Terry Butcher. 12. Russell Osman. 13. John Gidman. 14. Alan Evans. 15. Paul. 16. Terry Butcher. 17. Russell Osman. 18. John Gidman. 19. Alan Evans. 20. Paul. 21. Terry Butcher. 22. Russell Osman. 23. John Gidman. 24. Alan Evans. 25. Paul. 26. Terry Butcher. 27. Russell Osman. 28. John Gidman. 29. Alan Evans. 30. Paul. 31. Terry Butcher. 32. Russell Osman. 33. John Gidman. 34. Alan Evans. 35. Paul. 36. Terry Butcher. 37. Russell Osman. 38. John Gidman. 39. Alan Evans. 40. Paul. 41. Terry Butcher. 42. Russell Osman. 43. John Gidman. 44. Alan Evans. 45. Paul.

ON THE BALL ANSWERS

ACROSS:

(1) Bet. (3) Wilkins. (6) Top. (7) Jack. (8) Exit. (10) Aas. (12) Dim. (13) Arc. (15) Peter Barnes. (21) Delt. (23) Grow. (25) Eric. (26) Scrub. (27) Dead. (28) Tony. (29) (Pike). (30) Alan Kennedy. (36) Six. (37) Alf. (38) Tip. (40) Slow. (41) Stan. (42) Des. (44) Bremner. (45) Law.

DOWN:

(1) Bolt. (2) Trip. (3) Wicket. (4) Kopa. (5) Sexton. (7) Jump. (9) Teas. (10) Al. (11) Sea. (12) Defends. (14) Cardiff. (16) Excel. (17) Emson. (18) Burke. (19) Robin. (20) Ended. (21) Dot. (22) Try. (23) Gap. (24) Woe. (30) Axis. (31) Apolomb. (32) Kit. (33) Nap. (34) Exeter. (35) Yawn. (39) Item. (42) Dell. (43) Snow.

COMMON DENOMINATOR: Alan Taylor (West Ham v. Fulham 1975), Kevin Keegan (Liverpool v. Newcastle 1974) and Ricky Villa (Spurs v. Manchester City 1981) each scored two goals in an F.A. Cup Final at Wembley.

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JOE JORDAN is my closest friend, yet I was as surprised as anybody when he finally signed for AC Milan a few weeks ago.

Although the Italians had made an approach before the end of the season and I knew of Joe's interest in playing abroad, I always believed he'd end up at Manchester City.

Naturally, I was hoping he'd change his mind and stay at Old Trafford even though the club refused to give in to his wage demands for fear of upsetting the salary structure.

The Italians made their interest known a few months ago when the Brazilian Zico and West Germany's Klaus Fischer were also on their shopping list.

'JOE'S MOVE A BOOST, FOR BIRTLES'

When Zico and Fischer failed to come to terms, Joe remained Milan's prime target.

Obviously Manchester United will miss the big fellow, but his departure should give Garry Birtles the boost he badly needs.

As a pair they would never have clicked. Their styles were not compatible. Now Garry should have the opportunity to really establish himself as the number one striker at Old Trafford.

The fee United received for Joe was just £160,000, ridiculous by present British standards. But there was nothing United could do about it. That was the maximum allowed under EFC rules taking into account Joe's age.

If he had joined Manchester City we would have got something in the region of £500,000.

The situation is crazy. Look how much Arsenal lost on the Liam Brady deal. All Juventus had to pay for him was £400,000.

Top clubs

Although I'd like all our top players to remain in this country I know as well as anybody that none of our top clubs can match the wages offered by the Continentals.

As much as I love United I certainly wouldn't have rejected a similar offer from AC Milan if they'd have come in for me as well.

I don't want to leave Old Trafford, or Britain, but there's no way I'd turn down the chance of financial security for me and my family.

There was nothing understandable about the Milan deal. Joe's contract was up and he was a free agent.

The lure of the lira was too great to resist. Apart from his signing on fee, Joe will receive something in the region of £100,000 a year, plus a free house and car.

United will miss him, so will I and my wife Yvonne. Joe and Judith were our closest friends and we mixed a great deal socially.

Many critics don't give much for Joe's chances in the harsh, often cruel world of Italian football. I disagree.

Joe has improved so much as a player over these last two years he'd be successful in any company. And

Garry Birtles should do better for United now that Joe Jordan has left for AC Milan



Gordon McQueen

JOE JORDAN

story

THE A.C. ACE

JOE Jordan's acceptance of the £2,000 a week he will receive as part of his new contract with the Italian giants AC Milan almost certainly makes him the highest paid British footballer of all time.

His departure will be sorely felt by Manchester United, who will receive just £160,000 for the big striker with the fearsome reputation.

Born in the little Scottish town of Carlisle, Joe made just ten League appearances for his first club, Morton, scoring one goal.

But that didn't deter Leeds United, and in 1970 manager Don Revie paid out a nominal fee for the big man destined to lead the Scottish forward line.

After establishing himself at Elland Road, Joe's first full cap for the Scots came as sub for Lou Macari against the English at Wembley in May, 1973.

He played a vital role in helping his country to the World Cup Finals of 1974 and 1978, and hopes to complete his hat-trick next year.

Meanwhile back at Leeds, Jordan not only helped his club to take the League title in 1974, but also into the European Cup Final of 1975 and the Cup-Winners' Cup Final of 1973 when, ironically United were beaten 1-0 by AC Milan in Salónica.

After 170 League games for Leeds, Joe signed for Manchester United in January, 1978.

While at Old Trafford, the famous toothless grin was seen on many an occasion as Joe helped his new club to Wembley once more for the 1979 F.A. Cup Final. Once again, though, he was to end up on the losing side, United going down 3-2 to Arsenal.

Voted Player of the Year by the club's supporters last season, Joe has battled back successfully from a number of serious injuries.

He has proved himself to British fans everywhere. Now he faces a new challenge in Milan.



Leeds...



The 1973 European Cup-Winners' Cup Final. AC Milan's Sogliano heads clear from Leeds United's Joe Jordan. Now Joe will be wearing the famous blue and black stripes of the Italian club — at a salary of £100,000 per year.



Further European gloom as Leeds lose to Bayern Munich in the 1975 European Cup Final in Paris. But it was not all a case of hard luck for Joe at Leeds, and while at Elland Road he helped the club to become one of the most successful in British footballing history. Although not a prolific scorer for the club (he scored just 35 times in 170 League games), Joe's power and aggression combined to make him one of the most feared and respected strikers in the Football League.

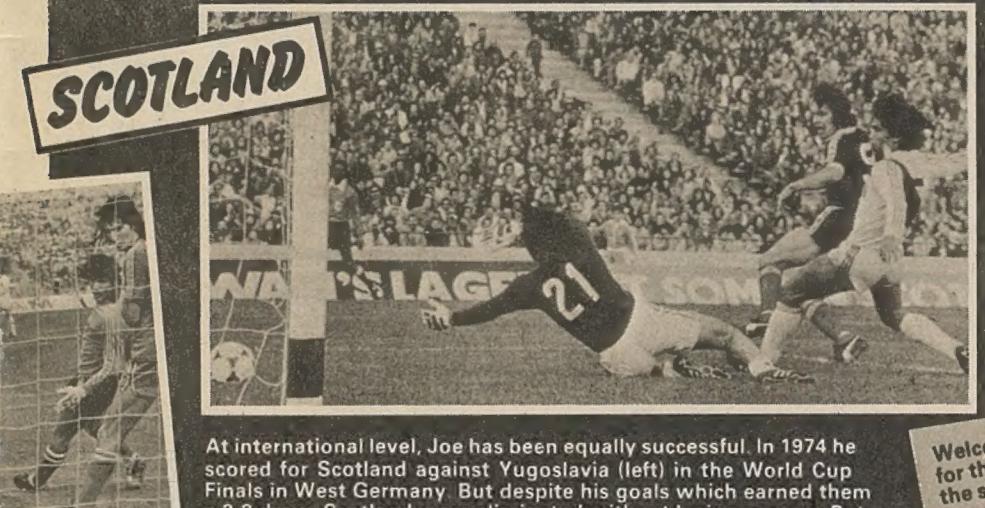
Man. Utd...



In January, 1978, Joe was signed by Manchester United manager Dave Sexton at what was then a club record fee of £350,000. There were many critics of the move at the time, but as usual the big Scotsman proved the critics wrong. Helped by Jordan, United began to emerge as a leading force in the soccer world once more, and were at Wembley in May, 1979 for the F.A. Cup Final when they were narrowly beaten 3-2 by Arsenal (right). Many observers rate the climax to that game to be the most dramatic of post-War Finals.

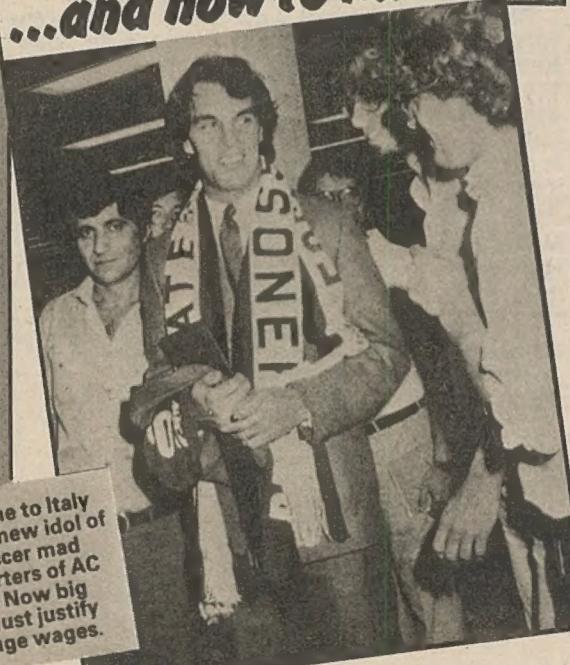


SCOTLAND



At international level, Joe has been equally successful. In 1974 he scored for Scotland against Yugoslavia (left) in the World Cup Finals in West Germany. But despite his goals which earned them a 2-2 draw, Scotland were eliminated without losing a game. But there were no such hard luck stories four years later. After an early goal against Peru in Argentina (above) everything went drastically wrong. Now Joe is hoping to make amends in Spain next year.

Welcome to Italy for the new idol of the soccer mad supporters of AC Milan. Now big Joe must justify his huge wages.





BOTHAM BOUNCER!

Botham in action for Chelsea during Ron Harris's testimonial game (left) and in more traditional action for Somerset (below).

As football's stars begin a new season they could learn a thing or two from the more genteel summer game of cricket. Who says so? Somerset and England all-rounder — and Scunthorpe United striker — Ian Botham.

Powerful batsman and dangerous bowler, former England captain Botham is also a beefy old fashioned centre-forward — one of the dwindling band of sportsmen to have played League soccer and first class cricket.

When he's not hitting sixes he keeps fit at the Old Show Ground under the watchful eye of Scunthorpe manager Ron Ashman.

"Football demands a much more explosive fitness — but cricketers must be more completely in trim, both physically and mentally," is the Botham verdict.

"A footballer needs to produce his best for only 90 minutes once or twice a week. Cricketers have got to stay alert for more than six hours a day, seven days a week.

"It's the mental fitness which causes the most problems for young players when they first come into County cricket. It's very hard to concentrate totally for such a long time.

"Even when your side is batting you cannot switch off; you have to watch and think about what's going on.

"Cricketers don't train every day. Playing keeps you fit. What we do is a series of stretching routines in the morning to loosen up for the game to come. At Somerset our physiotherapist Dennis Waight takes us through the warm-up session. Before Test matches England's physio Bernard Thomas does the same job.

"The overall effect is that cricketers tend to be much more supple — and that's where football could perhaps learn a lesson.

"As an example, there's one exercise for stretching the hamstrings, bending over and touching your toes. Most of the Scunthorpe lads find it difficult — but I can get the palms of my hands on to the floor — and I don't claim to be the most supple cricketer in the country.

"Now how many games do footballers miss in a season through hamstring strains? Surely it would help them to consider those stretching routines alongside their normal training."

Botham has made only a handful of first team appearances for Scunthorpe, as a non-contract player.

'Footballers could miss fewer games training cricket-style'

But he harbours a secret dream of emulating giants of the past like Denis Compton, who played for England at cricket and soccer.

"It's just not practical these days," he admits. "The seasons overlap so much that you have to concentrate on one or the other, and I know cricket must come first.

"I'm just grateful for the time I do spend there. I enjoy it, it keeps me fit, and they have been very kind to me."

Eager

Botham is an avid football fan, eager for news and results while he's on tour with England in far flung parts of the world.

"In the West Indies last year I always made sure of seeing the results as soon as possible. I look for Scunthorpe's first, but next in line is Chelsea. They've always been my team.

"In fact, one of the biggest thrills I have had was when Ron Harris asked me to play for an old Chelsea team against the current side in a testimonial last year. Lining up in the same team as people like Ron, Peter Osgood, Ian Hutchinson, Jimmy Greaves and Peter Bonetti, players who were my heroes when I was a boy, was a real privilege."

SWANSEA City march into the First Division with a multi-national squad — the £150,000 signing of former England striker Bob Latchford took manager John Toshack's tally of capped players to 13 . . . "and not even in the First Division can many clubs get close to that!" he says.

In fact, only Toshack's old club, Liverpool, and Manchester United can rival the promoted club of West Wales for internationals. Toshack now has one Englishman in Latchford, two Scots in Tommy Craig and Dave Stewart, two Yugoslavs in Dzemal Hadzibabic and Ante Rajkovic — plus the heart of the Wales World Cup side.

The arrival of most-capped goalkeeper Dai Davies gives Toshack seven Welsh internationals: Alan Curtis, Robbie James, Jeremy Charles, Leighton James, David Giles and John Mahoney are the others.

Experience

If Toshack himself, who played five first team games last season adds his own massive playing experience to The Swans' firepower that will give the Vetch Field an all star cast of 13.

"I'm lucky to be joining the club at the most exciting time in its history," says powerful target man Latchford. "The hamstring injury which troubled me all last season at Everton is healed now and this is a terrific new challenge.

"I have nothing but the fondest memories of Everton. I had seven of the finest years of my career there, but it was the right time to move on. Everton has always been a great club and always will be."

Big Bob is confident that the fierce shooting and punishing heading are both intact after that final Goodison Park season of disappointment. He managed just one substitute appearance on May 4 after being sidelined with injury the previous November.

"Once you've got the scoring habit, you don't lose it," he says confidently. "After 68 goals in 160 League matches for

Birmingham then 106 for Everton, I've always been on target. Even last season, I was going well before that injury."

The 30-year-old Latchford, with a dozen caps for England plus that epic 30 League goals in a season's campaign at Everton in 1977-78, is itching to become part of the free scoring Swansea strike force.

"To be working with a winger as good as Leighton James is a particularly exciting prospect for a player like me. His service and creative skill obviously played a major part in Swansea's promotion last season and I hope to make them even more effective.

"I know that Swansea are a side which makes chances as well as taking them and when you have players of rare talent like Alan Curtis, Tommy Craig and John Mahoney I know that I could not have come to a better club. The chances that players like them can open up are food and drink to me."

It is a special bonus for Latchford that Swansea will also be compet-

ing in Europe. As winners of last season's Welsh Cup, they are back in the Cup-Winners' Cup for the first time since 1966.

Season ticket sales are set to top £500,000 and already the careful forecasting by chairman Malcolm Struel and his energetic directors show that at least half the home games in Division One are ensured of capacity 26,000 gates.

The signing of Latchford increased the tempo of the Vetch Field boom and the tall centre-forward says with a chuckle: "There is one plus straight off . . . I'm going to be in the same winning line-up as John Toshack!

"Our paths crossed many times in Merseyside duels and I don't think that I was ever on the winning side when he was in the Liverpool team." But Latchford does have a favourite international memory from one of his very few games on Welsh soil — scoring England's first goal in a 3-1 win at Cardiff in 1978.

Says Toshack: "Playing up front season after season is a thankless task. One of our first jobs will be to get the enthusiasm stirring in Bob again.

"His height alone gives us an extra dimension through the middle. With Dai Davies, Ante Rajkovic and Bob, we suddenly have a goalkeeper, central defender and central striker all six feet or more."

Latchford, who admits to becoming "a bit stale", adds: "The First Division, European competition and a new club at the peak of its development is just what I needed at this point in my career. I can't wait to get going."

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All the Football
League fixtures for
the new season.

And in colour:
Ipswich star striker Eric Gates plus Focus On England Under-21 star Adrian Heath.

It's all in next week's
SHOOT! Don't miss it.

'I've not lost the scoring habit'
SAYS BOB LATCHFORD



FOCUS ON TREVOR CHRISTIE NOTTS COUNTY

FULL NAME: Trevor Christie
BIRTHPLACE: Creswell, Northumberland
BIRTHDATE: February 28, 1959
HEIGHT: 6ft 1½ins
WEIGHT: 12st 12lbs
PREVIOUS CLUB: Leicester City
MARRIED: To Sue
CHILDREN: None
CAR: Colt Sapor GS/R
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Star
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Diego Maradona
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Brian Kilcline
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Blyth Spartans
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Jimmy Smith and Malcolm Macdonald when they were at Newcastle
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Horse racing and tennis
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Whoever I face next
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My League debut for Leicester when we beat Wolves 1-0 and winning 2-0 at Chelsea last season to clinch promotion
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: None so far (hope it stays that way, too)
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Sunderland
FAVOURITE FOOD & DRINK: Anything my wife cooks and lager
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES: Driving... Smoking, rude people
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Poros, Greece
FAVOURITE T.V. STAR, MALE AND FEMALE: Cannon and Ball, Paul Newman and Natalie Wood
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: A day at the races or just lazing around
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Bryan Ferry, Rod Stewart, Phil Collins
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Usually a nice meal with my wife and friends
BEST FRIEND: I'd like to think I have many
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My parents, and George Dewis and Dave Coates, coaches at Leicester when I was there
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: None
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be a millionaire
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO?
Don't know
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Muhammad Ali or Cannon and Ball

